IRISES

The Bulletin of the American Iris Society

All about the 2014 Spring Convention!

www.irises.org

Volume 95, No. 3 Summer 2014

Award winners with the most votes
Left to right: 'Bottled Sunshine', 'Bahama Blues', Pyburn 08-6-10

Photos by Jim Morris and Ron Thomas

2014 Convention Awards

TOTAL VOTES RECEIVED

President's Cup (In Region)

'Bottled Sunshine' (H.Nichols 1995, IB)	89
'Dorothy Devenport' (H.Nichols 2003, TB)	8
'Muleshoe Money' (T. Burseen 2011, TB)	7

Franklin Cook Memorial Cup (Out of Region)

'Bahama Blues' (M. Sutton 2010, IB)	23
'Beyond Borders' (R. Tasco 2012, TB)	15
'Midnight Sharp' (G. Sutton 2010, IB)	11

Ben R. Hager Median Cup

'Bahama Blues' (M. Sutton 2010, IB)	24 (Tie)
'Bottled Sunshine (H. Nichols 1995, IB)	24 (Tie)
'Midnight Sharp' (G. Sutton 2010, IB)	15
'Leave The Light On' (R. Probst 2013, IB)	14

Lloyd Zurbrigg - Clarence Mahan Seedling Cup

08-6-10 (A. Pyburn TB)	35
05-104-10* (F. Kerr TB)	20
Rl-1A-2003 (K. Rohr IB)	9

Left to right: 'Ginny Mitchell'*, 'Midnight Sharp', 'Beyond Borders'

Photos by Fred Kerr, Paul Black and Nancy Price

IRISES: The Bulletin of the American Iris Society

ISSN 0747-4172 | Volume 95, No. 3 Series No. 373 | Summer 2014

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IRISES: The Bulletin of the American Iris Society is issued and published quarterly by The American Iris Society, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. All editorial inquiries should be addressed to the Editor, Kathleen Sonntag aiseditor@irises.org. All other inquiries should be addressed to the Membership Secretary Tom Gormley, AISMemsec@irises.org.

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Deadlines for receiving materials are February 1 (Spring Issue), May 1 (Summer Issue), August 1 (Fall Issue), and November 1 (Winter Issue) with earlier receipt desirable. All images should be submitted electronically in a minimum 300 dpi resolution for publication. Failure to provide quality images at time of submission may result in those images not being published. Manuscripts should be submitted via email in MS Word format without excess formatting and nonstandard fonts. The Editor reserves the right to schedule submissions for the appropriate issue regardless of the date of submission.

IRISES is published quarterly by The American Iris Society, Publishing Office, P.O. Box 177, DeLeon Springs, FL 32130-0177. Periodical postage paid at DeLeon Springs, FL and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to IRISES: The Bulletin of the American Iris Society, P.O. Box 177, DeLeon Springs, FL 32130-0177.

AIS Membership Information *(see page 51 for section membership information)*

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP RATES

Annual Single: $25.00 / Dual: $30.00
Triennial Single: $60.00 / Dual: $75.00
Life Single: $1000.00 / Dual: $1500.00

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Triennial Single: $65.00/ Dual: $80.00

May be paid by check, VISA, or Mastercard. Overseas memberships include bulk air mail to country of destination followed by first class postage within the country, and is payable in U.S. currency.

The American Iris Society is a non-profit institution incorporated February 2, 1927, in the County of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania. By the terms of the Charter, the Corporation has no stockholders and exists for the sole purpose of promoting the culture and improvement of the Iris.

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On the Front Cover

'Lacy Lemon' (C. Fan, 2009 TB) blooming in the Town of Addison Garden and described by Jim Morris: "Bright, lacy lemon yellow with yellow orange beards and a nice scent. Classy."

Photo by Jim Morris

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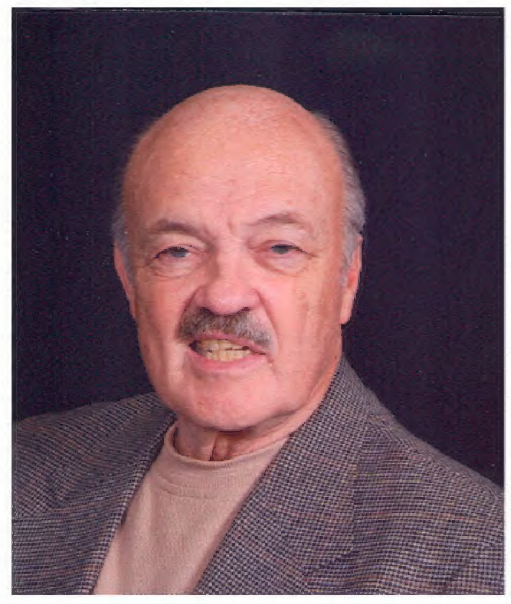
JIM MORRIS, MISSOURI



Convention 2014 was characterized as a "bud" convention. I prefer to call it a "people" convention. Yes, the bloom season was late for tall bearded irises; but we did see our share of median irises, and the intermediate bearded irises were at peak bloom. The relative lack of TB bloom allowed everyone more time to see other features in the guest gardens and to spend time with fellow irisarians talking about a multitude of iris subjects. It afforded your president the time to meet and converse with many new people, something I appreciated very much. I can put a lot more faces with names as a result.

This convention was the first to award the newly AIS approved Lloyd Zurbrigg-Clarence Mahan Seedling Cup which was sponsored by Region 4. The award honors two stalwart hybridizers from the east who are household names in AIS history. Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg is best known for hybridizing reblooming irises and changing the course of iris history as a result. He gardened in Canada, Indiana and Virginia before retiring to North Carolina. An In Memoriam of Lloyd is in the April 2005 AIS Bulletin on pages 66-70. Clarence Everett Mahan just passed last year and was covered extensively in the January/February 2014 issue of *IRISES*, the Bulletin of the American Iris Society. An AIS gold medal recipient, Clarence is best known as past president of the AIS and author of the wonderful book Classic Irises and the Men and Women who Created Them. He gardened in Virginia.

The fact that a misidentified and introduced TB placed second in the Zurbrigg-Mahan Seedling Cup voting points out that Guest Iris rules must be meticulously administered. It is the hybridizer's responsibility to inform the convention Guest Iris Chairman of any of their guest seedlings that have been named and introduced.

The Novelty Iris Society is still seeking charter members for this proposed new section of the AIS. Anyone who has interest should contact acting chairman Bonnie J. Nichols in Dallas, Texas via <bjnhtn@aol.com.> Novelty irises are those identified as Space Age, Flatties, Variegated Foliage and Broken Color. In our St. Louis gardens several of them did well this year including 'Conjuration', 'Black Hope', 'Flopsy', 'Splatter Matters', and 'Kinkajou Shrew'.

With the late bloom season, I was able to really enjoy my 700+ varieties and the 1,500 in the Missouri Botanical Garden. The stars of my garden were the Miniature Tall Beardeds with the best bloom in a decade. About 70 varieties bloomed beautifully over a three-week period. I visited many local gardens and entered four Iris Shows. As I write this, Spurias, Louisianas and eye shadow Species-X are yet to bloom. ⚜

Enjoy your summer.

Jim Moris with Happy Carver and Dell Perry at the Carver garden (2014 AIS garden tour)

Carver Garden iris beds

Photos by Betty Stephens

Editor's Message

This edition of *IRISES* takes a comprehensive look at the 2014 spring convention in Dallas. The gardens were mostly green; however, there were some wonderful blooms as evidenced by the photos. Perhaps their scarcity made the blooms even more appreciated. Mostly, as Jim noted, the medians and intermediate bearded irises were in bloom along with a few of the early blooming tall bearded iris. Many remarked on the welcome opportunity to attend judges' training focused on the medians.

For me, this was a chance to finally meet some of the people who have become my "email and telephone friends." What a welcoming, supportive group of iris lovers they are! There was more information than I could absorb in a couple of days while attending the meetings and presentations, but it was a start.

Several people took photos and wrote about what they saw on the garden tours and I thank them for spending their time writing interesting articles. The photos came from several people. A first convention attendee, Betty Stephens from Region 7, and Jim Morris gave me more than a hundred garden photos. Riley Probst was the convention banquet photographer and he also sent some garden photos. Most of the authors included photos with their articles. Thank you all.

Iris registration information is getting an update in this issue. John Jones and Keith Keppel explain how to describe iris beards on the registration form. Don't miss *Bearding the Iris* on page 46. Great photos! There are changes to the iris registration fees effective December 1 of this year. The details are on page 48.

I have had a request to start a new column that depends completely on your input. It will be called *Member Spotlight* and the purpose is to acknowledge the contributions of members in your regions and societies that "go above and beyond the call of duty." At the risk of sounding morbid, we often learn of members' accomplishments in Jim's *In Memoriam* column. Please submit short articles (maximum 500 words) accompanied by a photo if possible. I hope to hear from you.

It occurred to me as I was putting this summer issue together that I could tell you why I like my job. You have actually seen one reason if you have read my editor notes at the ends of articles. A good example is on page 16 following John Baumfalk's article. He told me about the rare iris that surprised him in his garden when we were discussing his ad and I asked him to write the story. I looked at the photo of *I. Afganica* he sent and decided I wanted to know more about it. I hope some of you also learn something interesting. I love to do research! Working with the contributors and board members to provide a publication that will interest you is always a pleasure.

The people who proofread and facts check all the content in *IRISES* for me prefer to remain anonymous. What a team they are! My thanks for your patience in reading every word and for noticing every misspelled name, extra period or missing comma.

As summer reaches its peak and you survey the iris and other plants in your gardens, I hope you enjoy every moment. This time of year we usually have whole days (several in a row sometimes) of fog and temperatures in the 50s to low 60's on the central coast of California. As I write this, the sky is blue and the sun feels warm. I need to get out in my garden!

Kathleen Sonntag
Editor

"Since Iris is the Greek goddess for the Messenger of Love, her sacred flower is considered the symbol of communication and messages. Greek men would often plant an iris on the graves of their beloved women as a tribute to the goddess Iris, whose duty it was to take the souls of women to the Elysian fields."

\- *Hana No Monogatari:* The Stories of Flowers

K.Rohr Rl-1A-2003, IB
Runner Up for the Lloyd Zurbrigg-Clarence Mahan Seedling Cup
Photo by Jim Morris

Slide Shows Are Still Available

BY JANET SMITH, CALIFORNIA

Greetings to all. I hope your blooming season was great. I have noticed fewer affiliates are asking for slide programs and have discovered I have neglected to make sure everyone knows they still are available. We are down to two slide programs, *Iris Family* and *Irises in the Garden* as they are the most popular. The other slide programs that had been offered are too outdated to use. If you are interested in borrowing a slide program, please let me know. They are available free for a one time use with a $5.00 shipping fee. Information about the programs and details about usage and cost are available on the AIS website (member services/presentations). ⚜

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Omissions and Errata

The title of the 2016 "Request for Guest Beardless Iris" should have matched the article text which specified ***bearded*** iris. Dave Silverberg updated and corrected the article ***including the contacts***. Please see page 13.

Several irisarians noticed the incorrect image caption on page 45 of the spring issue. The caption should read as follows:

Top to Bottom:
'Tiffany' (H.P. Sass, R. 1938) by Mike Unser
'Gibson Girl' (James Gibson, R. 1946)
'Autumn Elf' (G.P. Brown, R. 1939) by Mike Lowe
'Purple Duet' (R.G. Smith 1966)
'Gracchus' (Ware 1884) by Mike Unser

On page 46, one line of text is missing: "Even though my presence in the field of reblooming iris hybridizing has been a short one..."

Dave Silverberg noticed that in the data bank article on page 32, 'Argentina' should be 'Argentea' ('Argentea' G&K 1906). 'Argentina' was introduced in 1923 by Mohr. It turns out that the 2007 databank Brett Barney referenced lists both Argentea (G&K 1904) and Argentina (G&K 1906). The 1939 checklist shows 'Argentina' as a Mohr 1923 introduction (and does not show any iris by G&K named 'Argentina').

Thank you for your attention to detail. *KS*

Editor:

I have been surprised and concerned to see articles in the AIS bulletin regarding the use of herbicides, articles that are apparently the result of a study funded by the AIS. I am aware, of course, that many people who grow iris, both commercially and for personal enjoyment, use such products. One of my concerns is that funding such a study amounts to a tacit encouragement of their use.

I have hesitated to address the topic of herbicides, not wanting to be drawn into the weary and time-consuming debate about their safety; not wanting to offend those who employ them or spoil the good will I may have created in my correspondence with many iris lovers. Being both a gardener who grows over a thousand varieties of iris and who is involved with historic iris preservation and who is an environmental advocate, I am opposed to their use.

Years of reading hundreds of articles and having countless conversations with friends who have science backgrounds or are involved in protecting the natural environment have convinced me that herbicides (and pesticides) are not safe. They are not a necessity, they are an expediency. Bluntly said, their use is irresponsible, reckless and poorly informed.

Horticulture, like agriculture, has dumped millions of tons of herbicides and pesticides into the environment. Only a tiny fraction has been tested to determine if they are carcinogens or what immediate and long term effects they have. The biological processes of our planet Earth that filter, sequester or break down toxins are being overwhelmed by the sheer magnitude of poisons our modern culture discharges daily. How much longer do we want to continue this practice when there is evidence of the harm it causes?

I noticed statements in the articles indicating some herbicides were "safe for iris" or "relatively safe to non-plant life" or warning the user about the need to take "safety precautions." All these statements suggest toxicity beyond the specific focus of the study. I am confident herbicides and pesticides do what they were manufactured to do. It is the unintended and poorly understood harmful impacts of those herbicides that have not been studied that concern me.

Herbicides are poison and promoting the idea that they can be safely used is maliciously false and dangerous. When using them, we poison ourselves and the communities of life forms we share this planet with and with whom our lives are interdependent. If AIS is endorsing this, SHAME ON YOU.

The AIS might have done iris lovers more of a service if it had funded a study on organic gardening practices.

Charles Carver, Orcas Island

In Memoriam

On behalf of The American Iris Society, we extend our condolences and respects to the families and friends of these deceased iris lovers.

Carolyn Greer	Charlotte North Carolina
Paul Furr	Concord, North Carolina
Lynda A Walker	Lansing, Michigan
Mike Lowe	Blackstone, Virginia
Bertha M Brownlee	Grass Valley, California
Caroline R Stalnaker	Strasburg, Virginia
Mrs James R Stone	Olathe, Kansas
William Kennedy	Falmouth, Virginia
LaRue Boswell	Oroville, California
Harry J Boyd	Cedar Hill, Missouri
Melody Wilhoit	Kansas, Illinois
Angelique Violette	Polson, Montana
Eileen Fiumara	Sherman Oaks, California

Larue Boswell died June 11, 2014. She was the wife of Carl Boswell who died in July 2010. This is the iris Vernon Wood named for her. ('Larue Boswell' V. Wood 1998, TB)
Photos by R. Probst and C. Holte.

AIS Insurance

BY MICHELLE SNYDER, INSURANCE CHAIR

Below are instructions for obtaining Certificates of Insurance when required by the venue where an event is being held. Please be aware I DO NOT obtain the certificates of insurance for the local clubs, etc. It is the responsibility of the club, etc. hosting the event to obtain the necessary Certificate of Insurance.

To obtain a Certificate of Insurance go the www.irises.org. Click on the Member Services link and then click on AIS Insurance and you will be taken to the page that has the instructions for obtaining the necessary Certificate. The form can either be downloaded and faxed to the number shown or it can be completed electronically and sent via email.

There is a statement that says "Is Certificate Holder requested to be named as an additional insured?" If you only need to show proof of insurance, circle No. If the venue needs to be named as an additional insured, circle Yes.

As always, if there are any problems associated with obtaining the needed Certificate, or if you have any questions in general regarding insurance, please contact me at either 928-282-5867, or <sammygiz@aol.com>.

Colin Campbell winner of the 2014 Ackerman Essay Contest, senior division, accepting the 2013 Clarke Cosgrove Memorial Award for Youth Achievement at a Region 4 meeting.

Haley Cannavan from Region 18, the winner of the 2014 Ackerman Essay Contest, Junior Division, receiving her award from Jean Morris.

Note to Jean Morris, Region 18: Thank you much for helping Kaitlyn with the Iris. It was beautiful and she was so excited to win. She said it was the best day of her life. Winning is not something Kaitlyn has gotten to experience often and my heart was overjoyed for her. Sincerely, Kristie Stilt

Members of the O'Fallon American Heritage Girls Classroom Iris Project in Region 18 with AIS youth patches.

Members of the O'Fallon American Heritage Girls Classroom Iris Project in Region 18 planting iris.

Carolyn Hoover, leader-instructor with Classroom Iris Project, and 1st grade students who participated in planting irises and entering an iris art contest at Coarsegold School in Region 14.

Amberlee Peck with her award-winning iris for Best Youth Entry at the Yosemite Iris Society show in April. (Region 14)

Youth Views

BY CHERYL DEATON, CALIFORNIA

This year, three AIS youth members attended the entire AIS National Convention in Dallas, Texas, and nine attended the Awards Banquet! I was thrilled to meet Faith Winzer, her sister, Hope, and their father, James. Faith was the second runner up for the Clarke Cosgrove Memorial Award for Youth Achievement for 2013 and received her award at the banquet. The Winzer girls toured the gardens and exchanged their opinions of the various flowers with their father and each other. Faith is in the Judges' Training program, so she was able to expand on her knowledge of In Garden Judging.

This was Michael Kowalchyk's second convention. He has definitely caught the "iris virus." He added many irises to his garden after attending the convention last year. He is learning about iris from his grandmother, Nancy. Michael was looking forward to the garden tours. Bloom was a bit early for most of the irises, so we had the opportunity to view some lovely clumps of median irises and early blooming tall beardeds and to evaluate the growth habits of not only two-year clumps but also the three-year clumps.

At the Awards Banquet I announced the winners of the 2014 Ackerman Essay Contest, sponsored by the AIS Foundation. This year's topic was "Why, when and where did you become interested in irises?" The winner of the senior division was Colin Campbell from Region 4, and the winner of the junior division was Haley Cannavan from Region 18. Since they were unable to attend the convention, their awards were presented to them at a later date. Their winning essays are published on the AIS youth website. All participants in the Ackerman Essay Contest received irises.

Our first recipients of the AIS Youth Patch completed the requirements and received their patches at an honors ceremony in May. Members of the O'Fallon American Heritage Girls Classroom Iris Project in Region 18. These girls have been working hard since October 2013 to complete the patch requirements. Some of the activities that they participated in were visiting an iris garden and trying hybridizing; participating in an iris show with educational exhibits and artistic designs; planting a community iris garden; learning about other types of iris that they do not grow; writing for a publication (*The Iris Fan* youth newsletter); entering the Ackerman Essay Contest; and recruiting more AIS members. These girls and their adult mentors are to be commended for the hard work they did to earn their patches. Way to go, girls!

More Classroom Iris Projects (CIP) News

Coarsegold Elementary School CIP in northern California (Region 14) has been busy this season planting irises, vegetables and other plants in the beds at their school. On April 18, the Yosemite Iris Society held their spring show and Amberlee Peck won a Section Award for Best Youth Entry.

In Region 18 (Kansas & Missouri), Kaitlyn Stilt of the Churchill School CIP won Best Design at the iris show on May 8. The Churchill School is a private school for children with special needs ages 2 to 10 years, and Jean Morris, Region 18 Youth Chair, has been working with them. Twenty kids entered designs in the show!

Our youth members are busy participating in many activities as we go into the summer months, such as entering local iris shows, entering science and county fairs with exhibits about irises, helping with club sales, and tending their iris gardens. They all get their enthusiasm for growing iris from their parents and/or youth program leaders at their schools. Many of our AIS youth members are home schooled.

I hope everyone who has the opportunity to interact with our youth members will take a moment to get to know them and encourage their interest in irises. They are wonderful young people and the future of the American Iris Society.

Until we meet in a garden down the road, Happy Irising!

Congratulations to
AIS Youth Patch Recipients
Region 18

Maria Blase
Haley Cannavan,
Scarlett Kitta
Lauren Morris
Lilianna O'Brien
Liliana Rutoski

Annual AIS President's Letter

May 25, 2014

JIM MORRIS, MISSOURI

This is my second annual letter to the AIS membership. We continue to have lengthy board meetings at convention that are open to all. As we delve into the digital age, our electronic newsletter, *News and Notes*, has been well received by the membership. Our new editor of *IRISES* has published her first two issues on time and contributing writers have been pleased with her editorial review with them before article finalization and publication.

The AIS Encyclopedia has become, for many, the iris "go to" resource with phenomenal usage throughout the horticultural world. Our Facebook and blog efforts continue to grow and we are exploring using QR codes for quick connections to our iris resources.

In May 2014 we were a contributing participant in the Coalition of American Plant Societies' horticultural meeting in Alexandria, Virginia.

I thank all of you who have assisted our society. Our Electronic Services chairman, John Jones, has indicated his desire to retire from that position this year. Anyone who is interested in this position is requested to contact me for a position description, requirements and duties.

Each year the terms of office expire for one third of the twelve directors of the American Iris Society and four persons are elected to fill those positions. As provided in the AIS Bylaws, a five-member Nominating Committee recommends a selection of candidates for nomination as directors to the AIS Officers and Board of Directors. From this list, the incumbent Board of Directors chooses by secret ballot the slate of four candidates to be presented to the membership.

The Nominating Committee consists of five members selected each year by their respective parent bodies to serve for one year: two directors selected by the Board of Directors; two RVPs selected by the Board of Counselors; and one section representative selected by the Section Advisory Board.

Approved during the 2014 spring meeting held in Dallas, Texas, in accordance with the AIS Bylaws, the following four individuals are the 2014 nominees for the regular three-year term expiring in the fall of 2017.

Candidate #1	Susan Boyce (Region 12)
Candidate #2	John Jones (Region 14)
Candidate #3	John Ludi (Region 13)
Candidate #4	Andi Rivarola (Region 14)

The bylaws provide that additional nominations may be made by any forty members, of whom not more than fifteen may be located in any one region. Such additional nominations must be received by the AIS Secretary on or before August 31, 2014.

Should additional nominations be made, a ballot on which all nominees are listed will be mailed on or before September 30, 2014 to all AIS members. Ballots must be received by the AIS Secretary or Election Committee (if one is appointed) on or before October 30, 2014. If there are no nominations in addition to those listed above, issuance of a ballot shall be omitted and the original nominees considered elected.

Jim Morris, President

Request For Guest Bearded Iris

East We Go In 2016!

2016 AIS Convention In Newark, New Jersey

The Essex County Presby Memorial Iris Gardens and the American Iris Society will host The AIS National Convention in May 2016. Convention attendees will tour three gardens in the mid-Atlantic region of the U.S. Master plantings will be established in two or more host gardens. Hybridizers of bearded varieties are invited to send rhizomes of recent introductions and seedlings under consideration for introduction. Please observe the following guidelines when sending guest irises as only officially submitted rhizomes will appear in the convention booklet.

Up to two rhizomes of each variety will be accepted from August 15 through September 15, 2014. Please ship plants to:

Nancy Skjei-Lawes
Presby Memorial Iris Gardens
474 Upper Mountain Avenue
Upper Montclair, NJ 07043 (mail, UPS, FedEx)

The name of the variety or seedling number should be clearly marked on each rhizome. In addition, the following information should accompany each variety on a separate packing list:

1. Hybridizer's name and address
2. Name or seedling number of the variety
3. Type of iris (Tall Bearded, Intermediate Bearded, Border Bearded, etc)
4. Height, color, distinguishing features
5. Year of introduction (if applicable)

The packing list should include the contributor's email address to receive an electronic receipt. Absent of an email address a receipt will be mailed to all contributors.

If a guest seedling is later named, it will be the responsibility of the hybridizer to notify the guest iris chair of the change. Updates should include the name and the corresponding seedling number.

Contacts:

Nancy Skjei-Lawes: <nskjei@verizon.net>
Claudia Kolster: <ckolster@presbyirisgardens.org>
George Boyce: <glenara@aol.com>

Shortly before the convention, contributors will be asked for instructions regarding disposition of the plants. Failure to reply by April 1, 2016 will be interpreted as permission to destroy all seedlings, and distribute named varieties, one to each host garden. The rest will be dispositioned as determined by the convention committee. No rhizomes will be offered for sale on the Internet or by any other means that competes with sales by the contributors. Guest iris that are returned will be sent freight paid, except for foreign addresses.

The convention committee and the owners of the host gardens will strictly adhere to the Code of Ethics as printed in the *AIS Convention Handbook*.

The convention committee and owners of the host gardens will not be responsible for losses beyond their control. ⚜

Presby Memorial Iris Garden (from their website)

Section Happenings

BY GARY WHITE, AIS SECTION AND COOPERATING SOCIETY LIAISON, NEBRASKA

Aril Society International - The Aril Society International once again has offered its special plants sale. New introductions are often listed with hard to find old favorites. Check the ASI Website for full information.

Dwarf Iris Society. From Bob Pries, new President of the DIS: "The Dwarf Iris Society not only represents the smallest irises but is the smallest section of AIS. These Irises are at risk simply because we have such a small network. If AIS members would like to make an impact, joining the DIS presents huge opportunities. Again this year we hope that everyone will gather seeds to support our seed exchange. We are hopeful that we can make these rare irises more available to our members and secure their future. To this end we offered discounted packages of new introductions at the convention. A few are left at this writing. Check the website www.dwarfiris.org. We also hope to have future plant sales of great, rarely found oldies. Whether you choose to help, learn, or just enjoy, come join us in building a future for dwarf Irises. A checklist of Dwarf Irises is available."

Historic Iris Preservation Society - The new website for the Historic Iris Preservation Society (HIPS) is www.historiciris.org Check it out! HIPS has a new public relations chair, Cathy Egerer, from Grand Marais, Michigan.

Reblooming Iris Society - The new President of the Reblooming Iris Society is Riley Probst, of Modesto, California. Jim Landers, of Temple Texas is the Vice-President.

Society for Louisiana Irises - The new President of the Society for Louisiana Irises is Jim Leonard, of Lafayette, Louisiana, and the new Vice-President is Robert Treadway, of Carlisle, Arkansas. New SLI Board members are Eileen Hollander, of New Orleans and Kathy Chilton, of Tucson, Arizona. This year's convention was in New Orleans for the first time. Next year, the SLI convention will be in Lafayette Louisiana, and in 2016 in Shreveport, Louisiana.

Species Iris Group North America - SIGNA launches display gardens. Currently under development is a listing of gardens where one might see species being grown and talk with their stewards about the tricks to growing various types. If you are interested in joining the list, contact Bob Pries, SIGNA Display Garden Chair <robertpries@embarqmail.com>.

Photo: *I. Aphylla* by J Priogov, SIGNA website

Future Section Conventions

"Another Day In The Garden" 2015 Siberian/Species Convention

Portland, Oregon - May 24-25, 2015
Immediately following the AIS convention
Convention Headquarters:
Red Lion on the River, Portland, Oregon
www.ais2015portlandconvention.com

Society for Louisiana Irises

2015: Lafayette, LA
2016: Shreveport, LA

Spuria Iris Convention 2017

Hosted by the San Fernando Valley Iris Society
Los Angeles, California - April/Early May

Sources of Aril Iris

The following list was available at the 2014 Convention in Dallas.

Augis Bulbs
www.augisbulbs.com
<info@augisbulbs.com>
Eugenijus Dambrauskas
Kauno 58A, Babtai, Kaunas distr.,
Lithuania, LT-54333

Leonid Bondarenko
<litbulbgarden@litbulbgarden.com>
www.litbulbgarden.com
Gelvonu 7-25
07140 Vilnius-10
Lietuva / Lithuania

Janis Ruksans, Dr. biol.
<janis.bulb@hawk.lv>
http://rarebulbs.lv
Vecpulkas,
LV-4151 Stalbe, Latvia

Jan Jilek
Private Botanic Center
http://www.wildbulbs.eu
<plants@onet.eu>

Aril Society International
(members-only plant sale)
http://www.arilsociety.org

Kirsten Andersen og Lars Hansen
http://alpines.dk
<kila.herskind@mail.dk>
Address:Vibevænget 31
8464 Galten, Denmark

Kurt Vickery
<kvickery67@btinternet.com>
Hillview, Shipham Lane
Winscombe, Somerset
BS25 1JU England

'AztecPrince' (Tasco 2009, AB (OGB))
Photo by Jim Morris

The British Iris Society sends greetings and a warm welcome to its American friends.

Join the BIS and you will receive our super Year Book and exciting Seed Distribution list.

We have a $ checking account to enable US members to pay their subscriptions in US$.
Pay Pal Facility available.

The current subscription is $25 annual, or $70 triennial.
Additional family members living at the same address are free.

Enquiries and enrolments should be addressed to:
Mrs Jill Christison, Mill House, Woodlands Lane,
Chichester, West Sussex. PO19 5PA. UK
e-mail: jillchr@btinternet.com

Subscription renewals to Sue Marshall, Roughlands Farm,
Goudhurst Rd, Marden, Kent TN12 9NH, UK
e-mail: suemarshallbis@gmail.com

BIS

Regional Affiliates

BY JODY NOLIN, AFFILIATE LIAISON, OHIO

Has everyone had a great bloom season? I sure did. The cold wet spring turned out to be great for the Siberians and Louisianas. The bearded bloom was really late, though. This weather sure plays havoc with show and tour dates.

I heard of a great idea at the convention this spring. The Central Arkansas Iris Society hands out iris postcards at their show with information on their sale on the back and they give a free iris if the card is presented at that sale. We all liked this idea so much that the AIS Storefront is offering to send your club free postcards if you pay the postage. Contact John and Kay Ludi for details.

Does your club have non-profit status? If so, the AIS treasurer needs your Taxpayer ID Number (TIN). Please send it to Dwayne Booth, 6117 150th Place SW, Edmonds, Washington 98026-4121, or <aistreasurer@irises.org>.

Don't forget to inform folks of the voucher program at your rhizome sales. New AIS members receive a voucher worth up to $25 at participating vendors. It is a great benefit.

Lastly, please send me your great ideas to share and brief history of your society at <affiliatesliaison@irises.org>.

Fresno Iris Society

Thanks to Janet Smith for a short history of the Fresno Iris Society and a note from founder and hybridizer John Weiler.

In the spring of 1967, John and Fran Weiler planned an informal afternoon get-together at their home garden for people who liked iris. At the time, John was a biology professor teaching botany at Fresno State University and an iris hybridizer. On October 1, 1967 the Weilers held another meeting with the intent on bringing together as many people interested in irises as possible. Since there were no local clubs where iris fanciers could meet, this was accomplished by forming a society to conduct meetings with programs about planting, soils, fertilizers, diseases, hybridizing, selecting newer varieties and other topics of common interest. Temporary officers were selected at this meeting.

The first official meeting was held November 7, 1967 at Fresno State. John Weiler was elected the first president of the Society covering Fresno, Madera and Mariposa Counties, which started with twenty-nine members. Other firsts were hosting the AIS Region 14 Fall Meeting in October 1969; holding a Spring Iris Show in 1971; and making a proclamation that April 23, 1972 is Iris Day in Fresno. The Fresno Iris Society held an all Japanese Iris display in 1976. In 1981, Fresno State College's iris garden was opened to the public for viewing. The biggest event (also in 1981) was a Spring Bi-regional Meeting with folks from AIS Regions 14 and 15.

On the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Fresno Iris Society, John Weiler made this statement:

"From its inception, Fresno Iris Society has been a source of excitement, information, and satisfaction. Perhaps most memorable is what I think of as major markers in our development, such things as our original formation when everyone was enthusiastic, willing to help, and anxious to try things that seemed impossible; our first hosting of an AIS Region 14 fall meeting when the Society was only in its second year; and staging our first AIS accredited iris show in our fourth year, 1971.

Even more exhilarating, and, of course, more work, was our first sponsorship of a spring regional meeting with tours of local iris gardens. The two-day affair attracted not only AIS members from Region 14, but also those on the way to the national convention held in San Diego that year, 1981. The master garden of 1-1/2 acres was established at California State University, Fresno and included over 900 guest irises from hybridizers across the United States plus a display of more than 200 cultivars of Louisiana irises. Again, guests were attracted from several states and from overseas including England, Germany, Switzerland, Australia and New Zealand.

In the meantime, we established a public sale at the university which was an immediate success and helped us raise money for staging such functions without having to parasitize our own members for funds. This resulted in a large increase in members of the Society to forty. Over the years, membership in the Society has fluctuated considerably but has been larger during periods of activity mentioned above when more people were involved in planning and preparing for major functions and day-to-day functions of the Society. This last statement, I think, is one of the most important points for members to note. The more deeply involved each person becomes, the greater the rewards of belonging to this Society."

May you have many more and succeed in even greater accomplishments!"

The AIS, Nick Stewart and Debbie Strauss, silent auction co-chairs, would like to sincerely thank all the wonderful AIS regions, members and hybridizers who donated extraordinary baskets, items and rhizomes for the 2014 AIS Silent Auction in Dallas! We are also extremely grateful to all the convention attendees who visited the silent auction, bid on items and purchased their wins!

Thanks also to all the hybridizers across the country who so generously donated new and wonderful iris for the 2014 AIS Silent Auction in Dallas! There was a pot pourri of stunning iris of all types from Japanese to miniature dwarf bearded. There were beautiful posters by the coupons and bid sheets that highlighted the donor and their gardens. Many iris lovers went away ecstatic with the extraordinary iris they won! ⚜

HYBRIDIZER DONORS

Tom Burseen	The Lab
Carol Coleman	C. Iris on Pond
Joe Ghio	Bayview Gardens
Chad Harris	Mt Pleasant Iris Farm
Steve Kelley	Adobe Iris
Keith Keppel	Keith Keppel Iris 2014
John & Lesley Painter	Napa Country Iris Gardens
Nancy Price & Dave Silverberg	Abbey Gardens
Riley & Shirley Probst	Fleur de Lis Gardens
Schreiner's Iris Gardens	
Jan Sacks & Marty Schafer	Joe Pye Weeds Gardens
Don & Ginny Spoon	Winterberry Gardens
Rick Tasco & Roger Duncan	Superstition Iris Gardens

BASKET DONORS

Region 1 Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Newfoundland/Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick & Prince Edward Island.

Region 4 Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, West Virginia & North Carolina

Region 6 Ohio, Indiana & Michigan (2)

Region 7 Kentucky & Tennessee

Region 9 Illinois

Region 10 Idaho, Montana & Wyoming

Region 13 Washington & Oregon

Region 15 Southern California and Arizona.

Region 17 Texas

Region 18 Kansas & Missouri, Greater Kansas City Iris Society (2)

Region 21 Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, NWT, Nunavut, Alberta, Saskatchewan & Manitoba

Region 22 Oklahoma & Arkansas

In Your Backyard

What's happening in your garden? A reader-driven feature in *IRISES*!

Submit your stories and photos to the editor for future inclusion in this segment!

An Aril Nut and a Rare Iris

BY JOHN BAUMFALK, KANSAS

I joined the Aril Society International (ASI) fourteen years ago. I was enthralled by the form, color and patterns of the Oncocyclus and Regelia species iris and the Arilbreds. Besides this, from what I had read initially, they were also challenging to grow. That was the incentive; I love a challenge. Most articles on the species had been written by British irisarians and I knew their experience would not pertain to my location. I began researching all iris species, but concentrating on the Arils. It took me until 2004 to find sources for at least some of the species. Since then I have found around a dozen sources for many of the Aril species. Currently I am growing sixteen of the oncocyclus and six of the regelia species, plus several varieties and forma of them.

Have you ever felt like you died and went to Heaven? I will explain.

In 2012 ASI lost one of its best growers and contributors when Ken Trimmer of Pocatello, Idaho suddenly passed away. In the spring of 2013 his wife, Joanne, contacted me and said she was at a loss about what to do with his iris collection. I contacted Jim Kurtz who lives near Pocatello and he made arrangements with Joanne to dig the iris in June. Many of them were forwarded to me. I planted them to put in an ASI sale in the future, as Ken had always done. This year many bloomed and they are just gorgeous. One night when I came home from work, I was expecting to see another clump of *I. sari* with an open flower. I walked over from my truck to that area and stopped dead in my tracks. I thought I had died and gone to Heaven. There before me was the bloom of one of the rarest iris in cultivation, *I. afghanica*!

Ed. note: Rear Admiral Paul Furse and his wife Polly made several expeditions to western and central Asia in search of plants during the 1960s. Furse was an accomplished botanical artist and amateur botanist who, after his retirement from the Navy, spent several years searching for bulbs. While in Afghanistan in 1964, they came across this beautiful iris growing on the northern side of the Salang Pass in the Hindu Kush, north of Kabul. They initially thought it was a form of Iris darwasica but after finding it again on their second expedition to the region in 1966, came to the conclusion that it must be a new species. The species was eventually described in 1972 (by Per Wendelbo) and given its name - Iris afghanica. http://www.kew.org/science-conservation/plants-fungi/iris-afghanica
More information: http://wiki.irises.org/bin/view/Spec/SpecAfghanica

Photo by John Baumfalk

These Arilbreds Love Texas

BY DELL PERRY, TEXAS

Reprinted from the October 2013 Aril Society International Newsletter.
Edited by Kathleen Sonntag

When the dates for the two American Iris Society conventions in Dallas were set more than two years ago, I was excited. The early date in 2014 would mean we would get to see some median and arilbred irises that are usually finished by convention time. Having my garden on tour and its being an ASI display garden, it would be a great opportunity to introduce people to the wonders of the arilbred world.

Little did I know that Mother Nature would be on my side for the 2013 Convention. Our Texas Spring was slow coming with cooler than normal temperatures which slowed down and extended the bloom. Those who attended the 2013 convention can so attest–we were all wearing coats or heavy clothes on Tour Day One as we tried hard to keep warm in the windy, damp, unseasonably cold and unpredictable Texas weather, but the irises were loving it. They were blooming taller than normal for Texas, without the usual rush and melt caused by hot weather. It was almost like they were back home in Iris Heaven instead of here in Iris Hell. The tall bearded irises were blooming well, but were not quite at peak yet. Here it was mid-April, and the medians and arilbreds were still putting on a show. You would have thought they knew about the convention and had waited to strut their stuff. (Heaven only knows I reminded them of it daily!)

I overheard quite a few people asking about "the unusual iris over there" while pointing in the direction of an arilbred. Lots of "oooooohs and aaaaahs" came from first time observers, especially over the spots. People commented about the rich colors–how much more saturated the colors were–and exotic forms. Are these really iris? They look more like orchids. There were quizzical looks and remarks from the uninitiated about falls that curled under or fell like a dog's ears. Both onco and regelia phenotypes were blooming, giving a good overall view of the form range.

Many were amazed that arilbreds could be grown without special enclosures and environments. This attests to the common misunderstanding of the difference between the pure arils and the arilbreds. Much of Texas is actually prime arilbred territory. It has warm, dry summers that are perfectly suited for them. Just give them good drainage, lots of food and let 'um grow.

Mother Nature was not as kind as she could have been for the 2014 AIS Convention tours. Unusually cold weather extending into March, complete with atypical snowstorms, delayed and aborted the bloom. There was scattered TB bloom in both the convention and private beds. Fortunately, the medians and arilbreds seemed to have heard all my pep talks. There was loads of bloom among the median guests. Four of the six arilbred guests (shown below) were blooming and one was in bud. ⚜ *Photos by Dell Perry*

'Rare Breed' (Tasco 2011)
on the favorites list

'New Vision' (Tasco 2012)
on the favorites list

Sand Dancer (Tasco 2010)

'Bhutan' (Tasco 2010)

Milestones

BY JIM MORRIS, OBITUARIES EDITOR, MISSOURI

Enjoy life, it has an expiration date! My eclectic brain causes me to wonder if flying is so safe, why do they call the airport the terminal? But then I also ponder why the time of day with the slowest traffic is called rush hour. Researching the lives of our members who have passed away is an interesting, if sad, experience.

When Pete DeSantis died I immediately thought of his great smile and friendliness to all he came into contact with. Mike Lowe's passing was a shock to many, but Anne had kept AIS informed of his condition. Our former co-Register/Recorder (with Anne) and Gold Medal recipient will be missed for his wise counsel. Big, tall Irvin Pocklington was a quiet force in the seed corn business in Illinois and the former co-Publications Sales Director (with wife Nancy) for AIS. Iris taxonomist Dr. George Rodionenko of St. Petersburg, Russia died in April at age 101. Last year we celebrated his centennial birthday in the July/August edition of IRISES. Although I don't believe I ever met her, Bertha Brownlee was known as the "Iris Lady" in the Auburn area of northern California. Each of these iris people made their unique contributions to our iris world. ⚜

Bertha May Brownlee (1926 – 2014)

Daughter Kathy Braaten informed us that her mother Bertha Brownlee, 88, of Auburn, California in Region 14 passed away surrounded by family. She was born on January 4, 1926 in Grass Valley, California and died March 9, 2014. Bertha was known as "The Iris Lady of Auburn" by many and was a life member of the Sacramento Iris Society. She mentored many people growing and showing iris during her lifetime, and was a founding member of the Sierra Foothills Iris Society. She became interested in iris when intrigued by a black iris she saw blooming on Highway 20 in the 1970s. She grew that black iris for many years never knowing its name.

Bertha lived in southern California during WWII working for Douglas Aircraft. While living there she met her husband, Robert Brownlee. Later they moved to Nevada County where they raised their four children. She worked for Placer County for thirty years until retirement. Bertha won many silver medals at shows. One of her pet projects was to promote iris to local youth in Placer and Nevada Counties with plantings of iris on many of their school grounds. She never missed a rhizome sale and was always generous with her donations. She attended many national and regional conventions. In 2013 Fred Kerr introduced a lovely pink iris and named it 'Bertha Brownlee' in her honor.

She is survived by her sister Edith Peterson of Oakland, four children: Ken (Vichi) Brownlee of Dixon; Keith (Heather) of Garden Valley, Karen (Bill) Belding of Grass Valley, and Kathy (Tim) Braaten of Grass Valley, thirteen grandchildren, and twenty-five great grandchildren. ⚜ *(Photo of Bertha was taken in her garden.)*

---Phyllis Wilburn ARVP, Region 14

Irvin L. Pocklington (1915 – 2014)

Always there in support of his wife Nancy, Irv Pocklington, 98, of Carlinville, Illinois in Region 9, passed away March 22, 2014 at Girard. Born on June 9, 1915, he was the last survivor of ten siblings. He attended Blackburn College and the University of Illinois, graduating with honors in 1938 with a BS in Agriculture and a minor in Chemistry. He worked on the family farm before being drafted into the U.S. Army in 1942. Irv served in the 104th Infantry Division, including ninety days of continuous combat in the Battle of the Bulge for which he earned a Bronze Star. After discharge in 1945, he started a commercial seed corn business with his brothers.

In 1945 he married Lucille Denby, who died in 1982. He farmed and was district sales manager of Pocklington Seed Company for over 40 years, retiring in 1987. He served his community on the board of directors for the Federal Land Bank, president of the Macoupin County Farm Bureau, and board member of the Federated Church.

In 1983 he married Nancy Denby Dow and joined her in volunteer work for the American Iris Society. They served as AIS co-Publications Sales directors and were awarded the Distinguished Service Medal in 1994. Irv lived a long, full life and is survived by his wife Nancy, one son, three daughters, one step-son, one step-daughter, nine grandchildren and two step-grandchildren. ⚜ *(Photo above, second from the left.)*

Pete DeSantis (1917 – 2014)

Our friend Pete DeSantis, 97, of Reseda, California in Region 15, passed away peacefully in his sleep March 13, 2014. He was born February 28, 1917 at Long Branch, New Jersey to Italian parents who were avowed vegetable and flower gardeners. Pete's first gardening experience started when his father gave him a small plot of land and told him he could plant anything he wanted. Pete chose to plant popcorn, which was a popping success.

Pete served in the U.S. Army during World War II, including eleven months on Okinawa, Japan. After his return to New Jersey, his heart was in California where he had spent time training at Camp Santa Anita before going overseas, so he came west and married his wife Frances. They purchased a home in Reseda and started a garden. Pete and Fran joined the Southern California Iris Society and that started what Pete called "the wonderful world of iris." They also joined the San Fernando Valley Iris Society when it formed. At iris sales, Pete and Fran were always there, urging members to meet the public and promote irises. Pete was a fierce competitor at iris shows in both horticulture and design. He won many silver medals. They opened their yard at trek time and were frequently at regional and national treks. Pete usually wore his yellow hat–to ward off any chance of rain during the trek.

Later on, Pete became known as a hybridizer. He registered eight irises: three Spurias, four TBs and one LA; introducing six of them. He won his first HM in 2000 with 'Scoonchee' (1997 TB) named after his granddaughter. His second and last one was in 2005 with 'Hocka Hoona' (2000 Spuria). That one also won his only AM in 2009. *(Photo above, second from the right, from Andi Rivarola was taken in Portland in 2006.)*

Scoonchee is the perfect way to describe Pete–bright, warm, vigorous and hard to miss. Here's to you Pete and Fran. Thanks for the memories.

---Loren Zeldin VP, San Fernando Iris Society

Michael Baxter Lowe (1938 – 2014)

Mike Lowe, 76, of Blackstone, Virginia in Region 4, died peacefully April 30, 2014. Born in Madison, Wisconsin, raised in Devils Lake, North Dakota, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1955 as an electronics technician. He served aboard an arctic survey ship, a destroyer, a sub tender, and two heavy cruisers, one of which was deployed to Vietnam. He was an instructor at Dam Neck, Base Electronics Officer at Little Creek, and his last tour was as Station Commander of the NATO Satellite Communications Station in north west Virginia. In 1976, he retired as a "mustang" Lieutenant.

He earned a BS degree in Biology from State University New York (SUNY) shortly before retiring, followed by graduate work at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). He was a dedicated and accomplished distance runner. He ran the first Richmond marathon, numerous Shamrock marathons, as well as several fifty milers and one seventy-five miler. As he grew older, he delighted in running shorter races and winning his age group. His hobbies included reading, working out complicated iris pedigrees, cooking, genealogy and gardening. He was a life member of AIS, serving in several capacities. He received the AIS Gold Medal. *(Photo above, far right, by A. Brooks, 2012)*

Mike is survived by his wife, Anne; daughter Hannah (Chuck); son, Eric (Patricia); stepson, Alan Smith (Debra); five grandchildren, a sister and a brother. We are so thankful that Mike did not have to suffer any longer. He was with us until the very end and was ready to go. He was without pain but his body was so weakened by heart and kidney failure that he could not have possibly survived. Having him gone will take some getting used to, but we are fine, life goes on and I will do what I have to do. Thank you all for your thoughts and prayers and we will keep in touch. ⚜

Love and blessings, Anne Lowe

Remembering Mike Lowe

BY ANNER M. WHITEHEAD

To watch our late friend Mike Lowe, a camera suspended around his neck, loping through his garden in rural Virginia, pausing here to consider and reflect, there to stoop and click, yonder to whoop with delight, while one or another of his "clowder of cats" padded along in the warm sandy soil, was to appreciate fully the passion for Iris which fueled Mike's many contributions to our Society, and the international horticultural community.

The Lowe gardens were established around an 1850 era farmhouse to which the family removed when Mike retired from his career in the United States Navy. Irises had long interested him, and Anne, his wife, who survives him, and they cultivated their interest through their Navy years as their peripatetic circumstances allowed. About 1980 they became active in the AIS, and by the mid 1990s the gardens included in excess of a thousand irises of all kinds, from Iris species and venerable historic cultivars to the newest introductions, as well as collections of peonies, hostas, daylilies, and other perennials. Iris related artifacts and literature were also sought, whether for their inherent beauty and interest, or as research resources.

In much of their work for the AIS, Mike and Anne Lowe famously worked as a team. Both were Emeritus Judges, and they judged together. They also edited regional and Section publications together, and together they developed their much-admired photographic program, "Development of Form and Color in Bearded Iris," which was presented to many AIS audiences, and also at the International Symposium on Iris in New Zealand in 2000. But Mike was always the photographer of the team, the Iris genealogist, and the technology wizard.

In announcing the Board's award of the AIS Gold Medal to Mr. and Mrs. Lowe, President Keisling, in these pages in January 2012, observed that the Society had bestowed upon them its highest honor in recognition of "many years of highly distinctive service." These words were well chosen. Mike Lowe's contributions were indeed distinctive, and varied, although many involved education, facilitating effective communication, or the management and distribution of useful information. Essentially, he understood his role to be casting information upon the waters.

Digital technology was Mike's métier, and he applied his professional expertise not only to enjoyment of his own irises, but also to enhancing the enjoyment of others. He actively encouraged enthusiastic investigation of all aspects of the genus, and to a quite remarkable degree was supportive of those conducting the Society's administrative work, or individuals independently furthering its mission. Technology, as he deployed it, was a tool to increase efficiency, advance creativity, and minimize the often tedious donkeywork associated with original research, record keeping, data management, and graphic design.

When, in 1996, after several years as the AIS Policy Chairman, during which he maintained the Society's important record of precedent-setting or determinative Board decisions, Mike Lowe became a Director of the AIS, he wrote an autobiographical statement which appeared in the April, 1997 Bulletin. In this he announced his personal vision, to "help make information easily and copiously available to all interested gardeners, be it Horticultural literature; Check Lists; society publications, current and past; photographs; a question to a gardening friend on the other side of the globe; indeed, information in any form. . . The AIS should be in the vanguard, ensuring that this information structure is built and made available to all. The barriers of time, distance, and availability must crumble in the plant information world."

During one remarkable period, from early 1989 through late 1991, three distinct AIS publications were simultaneously being edited, designed and sent forth from the Virginia farmhouse. From March 1989 through December 1991, the Lowes were co-editors of the Region 4 *Newscast*. Then Mike was editor of record of the *Reblooming Iris Recorder* from 1987 through 1993, an era of rapid growth in which membership rose from fewer than three hundred to roughly fifteen hundred members. Rebloom–like variation in foliage, haft markings, or beard hairs–was but one of the botanical characteristics of Iris which interested him especially, so that he included it in his elaborate pedigree investigations. Many of Mike's preoccupations boiled down to gathering as much useful information as possible about how the genetic heritage

of the hybrid garden irises expresses itself over many generations, so that insights might be brought to bear on the greatest modern hybridizing challenge: creating irises of sublime beauty, and superb performance, including multi-season bloom, and horticultural reliability under diverse cultural conditions. To this end, he encouraged others to become interested in the genetics of Iris, to explore, experiment, document, and communicate their own insights.

Both Mike and Anne Lowe were instrumental in forming the Historic Iris Preservation Society, and achieving for it formal recognition as a Section of the AIS. They were the founding editors–Mrs. Lowe was editor of record–of the Society's journal, *ROOTS*, from Fall 1988 through Spring of 1996, and again from Fall 2000 through Spring 2005.

It would not be inaccurate to say that *ROOTS* formed HIPS, and the Lowes formed the journal. Always an interesting and varied Section publication, it was graphically sophisticated, a matter in which Mike took considerable justified pride, as he was the designer, and provided most of the illustrations. He also contributed several seminal articles addressing the preservation philosophy of the Society, and the limits and ethics of photography in resolving issues of identification. The rigor in research, and the insistence on verifiable documentation and provenance, which has always distinguished HIPS' approach to its work, was formed in these years.

In the Spring of 1996, Mike launched the first HIPS page onto the emerging World Wide Web, a labor of love featuring Society news and an enormous abundance of various, interesting, and reliable information–including copious vetted color study photographs. Reprints of important period literature, and articles from *ROOTS*, combined to form a charming resource of great value to hundreds of students of the older irises around the globe. Mike remained the webmaster of HIPS through 2004.

In December, 2003, following a period in which he updated the professionally designed but superannuated digital data management systems in the AIS Membership Office, and, with his wife, managed that same office for some months on an interim emergency basis, Mike Lowe was named the AIS Registrar, a position he would hold until mid-2011. Mrs. Lowe, with the title of Recorder, assisted.

Since 1955, the American Iris Society has served as International Cultivar Registration Authority for new non-bulbous garden irises, administering the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants, the set of rules which ensure that the names of new plants are documented, and kept in order. This is an enormous honor within the international horticultural community, and also a heavy responsibility, both for the Society, and for the individual designated by the AIS to carry forth this critically important and demanding, work.

During the decade in which he held the position of AIS Registrar, in addition to carrying out the usual duties, Mike Lowe also conceived and was the architect of the first digital systems to support certain aspects of the work. He continued to refine these systems, and enhance their sensitivity and utility, throughout his tenure. He was involved in the publication of two AIS *Check Lists*, and published annual Registrations and Introductions books from 2004 to 2010, inclusive. Subsequent to his retirement, he continued to work with the current Registrar and the Electronic Member Services Committee, supporting the AIS Electronic Check List initiative.

While all of the above are accomplishments of the highest order, we must not overlook one of Mike's Lowe's most distinctive contributions to the AIS, for Mike's most enduring legacy may well be his work as a teacher.

It has been said that the first characteristic of an expert is the curiosity to know, and Mike was able to stimulate this particular sort of curiosity about irises–all kinds of irises, and all aspects of irises–like no other. He had many enthusiasms, and opinions, and convictions, and these were often engaging in thought-provoking ways. He bestowed projects upon people, and conceived interesting concepts which he introduced into the collective dialog, to stimulate discussion. He was helpful, and supportive, but he insisted that there be order and intellectual discipline in his students' approach. He did not like sloppy thinking or unsubstantiated statements, and he was adamant that in our newly discovered passion for the great genus, we never forget to temper our enthusiasm with humility, and never mistake our giddy excitement for seasoned expertise

Mike liked to reference the late Ben Hager's *Bulletin* article, *Shoulders* (July 1990), in which we read that development of modern irises has involved much reliance on the discoveries and accomplishments of earlier workers. I suggest that, as individuals, we will remember Mike Lowe best if we remember those things he taught us, and emulate the generous spirit in which he did so. ⚜

Herbicide Studies: Weed Control in Irises

BY JOHN E. KAUFMANN, MICHIGAN

(Ed.Note: This is the fourth in a series of articles John is writing on weed control in irises. He welcomes questions about his studies via email and thanks the AIS Foundation for the financial support of his work.)

In the last article, I discussed Group G herbicides of which glyphosate or Roundup® is the only example. This article covers Group O herbicides that are known as the hormone or auxin herbicides.

The first one, developed in the late 1940s, is 2,4-D. It became known as the dandelion herbicide because it helped people find their ball in the fairway on golf courses. A series of similar herbicides followed, such as mecoprop (MCPP), MCPA, dicamba. 2,4,5-T and 2,4,5,TP. The latter two herbicides were very effective on unwanted woody shrubs, and vines such as poison ivy. Unfortunately, they were used as a component of Agent Orange during the Vietnam War to help defoliate trees. The sped-up manufacturing process required by war of fixing an atom in the "5" position of the molecule resulted in a contaminant called dioxin so these two herbicides were banned from further use. Not only were these herbicides useful for controlling woody plants, they were also the best herbicides for clover, black medic, wild violets, bindweed, and other difficult to control lawn and garden broadleaf weeds. As a result of their being banned, new herbicides such as clopyralid, triclopyr and fluoroxypyr were developed throughout the 1980s and have become reasonable substitutes. Trade names of these herbicides that could be familiar to the homeowner might include Lontrel,® Stinger,® Crossbow® and/or Turflon.®

Within the group, dicamba has the greatest water solubility and, in high amounts, can leach to tree and shrub roots and cause injury. Therefore, it is extra important to follow use rate recommendations carefully on products containing dicamba. And, instead of dicamba alone, products are available with reduced amounts of dicamba mixed with 2,4-D and/or MCPP for use on lawns to gain the added benefit of dicamba while minimizing the risk of tree and shrub injury.

Most of the herbicides in Group O have potential to injure adjacent plants including iris. This can occur not only by spray drift, but also by vapor drift up to several days after spraying. The potential for vapor drift is greatly heightened during hot weather, and often the label cautions not to apply these herbicides if the air temperature is over 80-85 F. Since these are growth hormone herbicides, action from these products is often seen as twisted stems and curled leaves in both the target weeds and desirable plants.

Care must be taken when using these herbicides on iris. Most broadleaf weeds are more easily controlled in the fall, so wait until after bloom. Iris stems seem especially susceptible to injury. Once I had a visitor ask if he could buy one of those "cute" iris with the curly stems! From everything I have learned, beardless iris seem to be more tolerant than bearded iris. I have experienced some unusual (non-twisting) symptoms with bearded iris, where both leaves (photo 1) and roots (photo 2) separated from the rhizome. So I now 1) use only half rate of these herbicides on bearded iris, 2) target the spray away from the iris plants as much as possible, or 3) spray small broadleaf weeds under a spray hood, only after bloom is finished. I am currently doing more testing of Group O herbicides for injury on beardless iris.

I have been asked many times to explain the safest and easiest way to measure out the product when using a gallon or more of herbicide concentrate. First of all, read the label to determine the appropriate safety equipment you should wear. For the actual measuring process, I find the cleanest way is to purchase 60 ml syringes from

Photo 1 (left): Leaves falling off tall bearded iris rhizomes, Siberian iris on upper right apparently are not injured.

Photo 2: Loss of roots from two iris rhizomes from herbicide damage.

a medical supply store. Sixty ml is almost exactly 2 fluid ounces, so it makes for easy calculation in both metric and U.S. units. Then go to the hardware store and buy Tygon® (plastic) tubing of the exact size that will fit tightly on the end of the syringe. Cut the tubing in 6-8 inch lengths and fit one on the end of the syringe.

When you are ready to apply a herbicide, place 1) the container of herbicide concentrate, 2) the syringe with tube, 3) a small, approximately pint sized, open mouth container of water, and 4) the spray tank all together on a stable bench covered with plastic. Position the three containers close to each other to minimize any dripping onto the plastic. Insert the syringe with the tube below the level of pesticide and keep it there while you slowly draw up the exact amount needed for the spray operation. Because there is air in the tube at the start, there will be an air bubble in the syringe. Do not attempt to remove the bubble. Then carefully transfer the syringe to the spray tank and eject the contents. Then, from the small container, draw water into the syringe a minimum of three times and eject the contents into the spray tank. Pour the remaining water into the spray tank and refill the open mouth container with fresh water. Repeat the syringe rinsing operation. Then, refill the syringe and pour the contents of the container into the spray tank two more times. Finally, fill the spray tank to the desired level, make sure the lid is on tight, shake it well, and then pump it up. Always shake it up before pumping because non-diluted herbicide might be forced up the internal delivery tube and cause plant injury. ⚜

John Kaufmann is a retired herbicide researcher who worked for Monsanto. For more information about his studies with herbicides and their effects on irises, email him at jekaufmann@gmail.com.

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http://theamericanirissociety.blogspot.com/

'Pinkster' Sutton 2008, SDB)
Photo by Nancy Price

'Starry Eyed' (Gatty 1975, SDB)
Photo by Jim Morris

'Riveting' (Black 2009, SDB)
On the list of favorites.
Photo by Betty Stephens

'Stuart Little' (G. Sutton 2012, SDB)
On the list of favorites.
Photo by Jim Morris

'Italics' (M.Smith 2012, IB)
On the list of favorites.
Photo by Aitkens

AIS Membership Campaign

BY ROBERT PRIES AND SUSAN GRIGG, CO-CHAIRS,
AIS PUBLIC RELATIONS & MARKETING COMMITTEE

You have an opportunity to win prizes and help the AIS grow. You or your group can win the new member contest this coming year. The contest period is from the convention to the month before the next convention. Submit the list of names of your new members to the Public Relations and Marketing Committee by April 15, 2015. <AISpublicrelationsmktg@irises.org>

It is easier than ever to get those new members. You can point out the $25 voucher they will receive when joining.

Many clubs throw in extra Irises for new members at their sales. Sales and shows are great opportunities to find new members. Sign them up then and there.

You can find out all about this new marketing program on the AIS website www.irises.org in the News Section.

For ideas on how to promote irises, AIS, and your local affiliate, you can check out the new *AIS Marketing Handbook*, available from any member of the PR and Marketing Committee.

Do you put an information table at your shows and sales to explain the many benefits of AIS membership?

If you have any questions about this program please contact:

Susan Grigg, Public Relations and Marketing Committee <irismom@nc.rr.com>

or

Tom Gormley, Membership Secretary <AISMemsec@irises.org>.

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Midseason bloom. Standards dark indigo-blue; style arms lavender; indigo rib and crests; Falls bright yellow center shading to cream toward edge, covered by indigo ray veins to dark indigo 1/16" rim.

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1001 N. Madison Ave.
Newton KS. 67114
Phone: 316-215-1324

AIS Region 22 Arkansas & Oklahoma Annual Region Meeting, September 5-6, 2014 featuring Kevin Vaughn of Salem, Oregon

Co-Author of "Louisiana Irises: Taming of a Native American Wildflower"

September 5th: Friday Pollen Daubers Program: Louisiana & Spuria Irises
September 6th: Saturday Judging School: Spuria Irises
Saturday Night Banquet & Program: "Hybridizer on the Loose"

Registration: $30.00, Judging School: $10.00 (per person)
Contact: Mona French, E-Mail: french@eclectic-garden.com: Phone: 405-424-6634
Mail registration to: Mona French, 4521 NE 55th St., Oklahoma City OK 73121-6024

Questions? Contact Cynthia Wade, E-Mail: enurcaw@aol.com; Phone: 405-570-5115

Accomodations:
Biltmore Hotel, 401 S. Meridian Ave., Oklahoma City OK 73108, Phone: 866-430-2692
Book Under: REGION 22 IRIS
Room rate: $65.00 & tax (2 people) or $72.00 & tax (4 people)
Free Shuttle to and from Will Rogers Airport.

www.ais2015portlandconvention.com

2015 AIS Spring Convention
Iris in Wonderland
Portland, Oregon May 18-23

The Greater Portland Iris Society, host for the 2015 American Iris Society National Convention, invites all iris friends to Portland, Oregon, for "Iris in Wonderland 2015." We are home to the largest iris garden in the world. Five of the six host gardens on tour are well-known commercial gardens. We also lay claim to having some of the best known iris hybridizers who have received numerous AIS awards. In addition to over 4100 bearded and beardless official guest irises, visitors will find the hybridizers' efforts of the past and new and exciting things for the future. All of the latest updates are on the convention website including the registration form, event schedule and details about the tour gardens.

There are **two optional tours** available in addition to the garden tours included with the conference fee. The first tour will showcase the magnificent Columbia River Gorge, as well as Oregon's iconic Mt. Hood. The second tour is a special garden tour. The tour will start at the Oregon Garden in Silverton, Oregon and continue with stops at the Keppel-Remare garden and Kevin Vaughn's garden. Space is limited. Sign up soon to avoid being disappointed. Complete details are on the convention website shown at the top of this page.

Shown below, the Miller's Manor guest iris beds in Canby, Oregon, one of the Wonderland tour gardens. Photo by Ramona Howard during the TBIS garden tour in May 2014.

Iris in Wonderland 2015
Silent Auction Planning Starts Now

BY NICK STEWART AND DEBBIE STRAUSS, AIS SILENT AUCTION CO-CHAIRS

The AIS silent auction helps support everything that the AIS does for the iris world. The silent auction committee works all year rounding up items, requesting donations from hybridizers, and requesting donations from everyone.

At the conventions people with diverse interests come to browse in the silent auction. There are people who collect iris plants, iris books, iris décor, iris dishes, iris clothing, old iris catalogs, hybridizers' autographs, gardening items and those who can't resist Raisin' Region Baskets. People who come to conventions love IRIS EVERYTHING and they like to support The American Iris Society while they indulge in their passion!

Raisin' Region Baskets can be anything from soft grocery bags to laundry baskets, straw baskets, or whatever container you come up with! We are asking each AIS Region to prepare a "basket" of items to donate to the Silent Auction. It can be items following a theme (for example, cooking or gardening), items unique to your region whatever your region chooses.

Each region may coordinate this project any way the members would like. One way is to contact all the local societies in the region and ask for donations. If the RVP or designated organizer decides on a theme before the fall regional meeting, the items can be collected at the meeting in the fall. The project could be finished then and sent or carried to the National Convention.

Other auction items might surface as you go through your closets, your garage, your stored boxes or your basement. Consider the many "iris everything lovers" that come to the annual AIS Convention Silent Auction. They would love to give your iris treasures a new home where they will be greatly appreciated. Clean and donate! You can mail your donated items at any time to the appropriate address on the right.

Hybridizers donating iris in the form of certificates for the silent auction get your new introduction(s) to the loving public and get a little advertising too! The AIS National Convention attendees are all iris fanatics and many are AIS judges who would love to grow your iris babies. Attendance in Portland will be at least triple that in Dallas. With your generosity, we hope to have iris to whet the appetite for many of the attendees! For each iris you are generous enough to donate, please send the following to Debbie:

1. Your name and
2. Your mailing address for the coupon
3. Amount of postage to be sent with the coupon
4. Deadline for coupon to be sent to you
5. Iris Name, Description, Color photo and retail value
6. Garden Logo (if you want it on the coupon and you haven't given it to me in the last three years)

I ask you to please evaluate your situation and get your information to me as soon as you can. That gives me time to make you an outstanding poster and beautiful coupons! If you wish, you can make your own coupons and mail them to me by April 30, 2015 or bring them to the convention.

Debra Strauss,
2213 Hereford Blvd,
Midland, Texas 79707-5012

As a special way to advertise your generosity, I will make a poster that stands behind your coupons and bid sheets with your name, pictures of your garden and a logo (if you email it to me). If you are making the coupons yourself, **please email me a list of the iris name(s) you plan to donate** so I can get a poster made for you. I always welcome photographs that you might like on your poster.

Please help the AIS by getting your newest introductions into the hands of iris lovers!

Shipping information for auction items other than iris:

Send **UPS shipments** to
AIS Silent Auction, c/o John Ludi,
35071 SE Hwy 211,
Boring, OR 97009-9584.

Send **USPS shipments** to
AIS Silent Auction, c/o John Ludi,
PO Box 956,
Sandy, OR 97055.

Auction donations can be sent/received any time but please…the sooner the better! It would be really helpful if you email a list of items being donated to Debbie.

<debrastrauss@outlook.com>

The AIS 2014 Spring Convention Dallas, Texas

Youth at the Convention Banquet

Tom Burseen with youth attendees

Nancy Kowalchyk with her grandson, Michael, and other youth

Faith Winzer, runner-up
Clarke Cosgrove Memorial Award
for Youth Achievement

Photos by Riley Probst and Cheryl Deaton. Youth News is on page 11.

Jim Morris presenting awards: (left to right)
Lowell Baumunk: Wister Medal for 'Elizabethan Age' (photo facing page left)
Chad Harris: Payne Medal for 'Bewitching Twilight' (photo page 5)
Bob Hollingsworth: Morgan-Wood Medal for 'Swans In Flight' (photo facing page center)
and Walther Cup for 'Judy, Judy, Judy' (photo facing page right)

Jim Morris giving **Hooker Nichols** the President's Cup
and the Ben R Hager Cup for 'Bottled Sunshine'

Convention Chair, Bonnie J Nichols

Jim Morris giving **Bill Maryott** the Dykes Medal for 'That's All Folks'
(photo at right) and the Hybridizer's Medal

Jim Morris giving the Distinguished Service Medal to **John Jones, John Ludi** and **Bob Pries**

Photos by Riley Probst

Photo by Sue Ann Barnes

Town of Addison Garden

BY SUE ANN BARNES, TENNESSEE AND JIM MORRIS, MISSOURI

The AIS conventions in Dallas in both 2013 and 2014 gave attendees a rare opportunity to see several gardens in consecutive years, though the timing and the cool weather meant that early season plants were the ones seen in bloom. There was an additional plus for the Addison Garden. It was only a short walk from the lovely convention hotel, so on each visit several of us from West Tennessee took advantage of its proximity to visit the garden multiple times in addition to the scheduled visit. I was able to attend the convention both years, so I had had previous views of the garden. I want to thank the host club for maintaining this garden for us to enjoy. It was a lovely idea and provided a rich iris experience, giving us a chance to view guest iris several different times. It was almost like having them in your home garden.

Bonnie and Hooker Nichols were the ones who proposed the garden and Hooker served as the chief caretaker and planter. Slade Strickland, Director of Parks and Recreation for the town of Addison, provided a large sunny plot for the garden. The city prepared and edged the beds. Mike Reed took on the job of head caretaker, Pat Norvell and Nick Stewart helped to maintain the garden. Helping them were many members of the Iris Society of Dallas. There are over 800 iris planted here some for the 2013 and some for the 2014 conventions. So in 2014, both two and three year plants were in the garden and the convention book noted this difference. There were seedlings as well as recent introductions lined out in three large long beds.

The first day we visited was Monday, April 7, after a heavy rain and there were only a few plants in bloom. By our last visit on Thursday, April 10, there were many more plants in bloom. And there was a bonus: Mike Reed was in the garden and he gave me some background on the long relationship between the Town of Addison and the Iris Society of Dallas and Mr. Strickland, who includes in his title Director of Landscape Development. This garden does not have statuary, water features, elaborate beds of annuals or other lovely distractions; this garden is all about the iris!

If your club or region is taking on the big job of hosting an AIS convention, please consider putting some iris at or near the hotel. Yes, it is work. Any garden is. But I think the benefits are worth it. It does not have to be fancy, it just has to have iris.

Tall Bearded Iris in bloom at Addison

BY JIM MORRIS, MISSOURI

'Beyond Borders' (Tasco 2012, TB) White iris with falls edged violet-blue. Three open well-formed blooms per stalk.

'Camera Ready' (R. Tasco 2009, TB) Golden tan with burgundy brown plicata peppering on the falls.

'Cheshire Smile' (B. Filardi 2010, TB) Subtle peach bitone with large lacy flowers. Very attractive.

'Donna Hackman' (D. Spoon 2009, TB) Ruffled and laced light yellow on a curved stalk with 7 buds.

'Dorothy Devenport' (H. Nichols 2003, TB) Named for Bonnie Nichol's mother, this ruffled peach bitone displayed one stalk with three open blooms. Looked nice in the garden.

'Dracula's Kiss' (Schreiners 2009, TB) Good name for this black iris with bright orange beards. The standards are more purple but the falls are quite black. This stood tall with 8 buds per stalk.

'Dragon King' (Tasco 2011, TB) Mauve with heavy veining in falls around burnt-orange beards. Wide over lapping falls.

'Edge Of The World' (M. Sutton 2011, TB-RE) Best overall performance in the garden all week. A real standout.

'El Greco' (L. Baumunk 2010, TB) Lively gold standards over wine red edged yellow. Beards gold and overall luminata effect. Six stalks with 7 buds each.

'Lacy Lemon' (C. Fan 2009, TB) Bright, lacy lemon yellow with yellow orange beards and a nice scent. Classy.

'Orangelo' (M. Sutton 2009, TB-RE) Medium orange-pink, falls white edged orange-pink with tangerine orange beard. Well-formed and ruffled flowers in bloom all week.

'Porcelain Art' (M. Sutton 2009, TB-RE) Light blue over white. Simply beautiful.

'Queen's Ransom' (R.Van Liere 2012, TB) Vivid pink over wine edged pink. White area veining around coral beards. Attention getter.

'Spice Trader' (J. Painter 2010, TB) Intense bright golden bronze, standards a bit darker than falls which are slightly edged brown. Brown veining from goldenrod beards. Stunning.

'Strawberry Frosting' (M. Sutton 2010, TB) Lacy light pink with near white falls and medium orange beards. It had six stalks with 7 buds each. Performing well.

'Summer Sunburst' (T. Aitken 2010, TB-RE) Intense yellow self.

Annette Brown Garden

BY JIM MORRIS, MISSOURI

Photo by Betty Stephens

Our buses left the convention hotel in Addison at 7:00 AM for the hour long ride to the Annette and James Brown garden on the Texas/Oklahoma border near Lake Texoma. I had hoped to sleep on the way but there were too many iris bus prizes being distributed by our bus captain. Most of you know that Annette passed away just before the 2013 Dallas convention and James elected to carry on the guest planting for both the 2013 and 2014 conventions. Returning to the garden was a bit of déjà vu but this time the iris stars were the medians.

When we stepped off the bus, we were greeted by strong wind and good median bloom. One MDB, **'Aaah'** (G. Sutton 2009) was still blooming. It is light blue, edged green-gold with bright blue beards, just under 8" with 15 stalks. The flower size was a bit large. Several SDBs were on display beginning with **'Little Nugget'** (A. Sutton 2011). It displayed as a reverse yellow amoena at 18," a bit tall for its class. **'Bad Boys'** (L. Miller 2011, SDB) is a wine on yellow plicata with blue-lavender beards, 15" tall with 3 buds and wide foliage. **'Riveting'** (P. Black 2009 SDB) had ten stalks in white with a big blue spot.

In the guest planting on the south side of the garden, we were immediately greeted by the eventual Franklin Cook Cup vote winner, **'Bahama Blues'** (M. Sutton 2010, IB). The whole clump was in glorious bloom as it was in most of the gardens we visited. I would describe it as a dusty rose or pink with navy blue beards. Very ruffled with open standards, it had seven stalks.

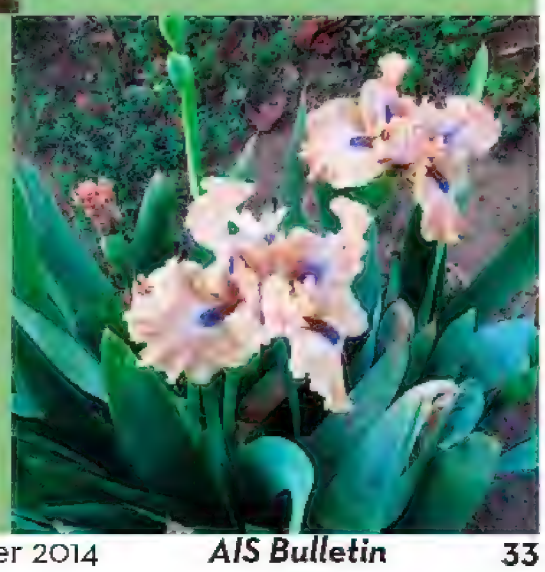
On the north side near the Brown's house was the eventual President's Cup winner **'Bottled Sunshine'** (H. Nichols 1995, IB) blooming in a stunning row of sunshine yellow. This older variety had been here for a few years and Hooker made sure to put an eligibility sticker on the plant label. These two varieties performed well everywhere and tied for the Ben R. Hager Median Cup with 24 votes each. **'Midnight Sharp'** (G. Sutton 2010, IB) was very impressive. It is black-purple with bronze beards. It had ten stalks, each with 5-6 buds and sequential bloom.

'Rainlike' (G. Sutton 2010, SDB-RE) bloomed is a very pale pink–one stalk 20" and another 10." **'Golden Apricot'** (M. Sutton 2010, SDB-RE) was prolific: 20 stalks in a peach hue with blue beards changing to orange. Some of the blooms were down in the foliage. **'Perfectionist'** (G. Sutton 2010, SDB-RE) is icy blue-white with cream beards. It had over ten stalks and was quite nice. **'Ray Jones'** (D. Spoon 2011, SDB-RE) is a bright gold bitone with orange beards. **'Stuart Little'** (G. Sutton 2012, SDB) presented as amber yellow with golden orange beards. It looked good in several gardens. We want it for our Children's Storybook Garden at Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis. **'Annie Oakley'** (G. Sutton 2012, SDB) is yellow with pale lavender beards and 3 buds. **'Look Inside'** (P. Black 2012, SDB) is a yellow ground plicata with brown plicata marks on the standards and jazzy style arms if you look inside. **'Kaching'** (P. Black 2009, SDB) standards are closed so you have to look inside. **'Peach Frappucino'** (G. Sutton 2010, SDB) bloomed in a clump of over 20 stalks. It is orange with tangerine beards. The last SDB I'll mention here is **'Bunny Slope'** (D. Miller 2013, SDB). It is white with a few violet plicata marks at the haft area, lavender styles and white beards. It is a nice size and has ruffles.

Garnering votes here for its third place finish for the new Lloyd Zurbrigg-Clarence Mahan Seedling Cup was Kendall Rohr's IB seedling **Rl-1A-2003**. Kendall gardens in Kansas is where he produced this rosy mauve over wine with gold haft lines. **'Presto Chango'** (P. Black 2009, IB) is a grape on cream plicata with lavender beards. It had 9 stalks with 5 buds each.

Many thanks to James Brown for keeping the convention garden open, and to his daughter-in-law, Julie Brouer, for helping serve refreshments.

'Bottled Sunshine'
(H. Nichols 1995, IB)
Photo by Jim Morris



Bahama Blues'
(M. Sutton 2010, IB)
Photo by B. Stephens

Photo by Betty Stephens

Carver's Iris Hill Garden

BY JUDY KEISLING, MISSOURI

Happy and Gordon Carver don't call their iris garden "Iris Hill" for nothing! A large wrought iron sign proclaiming that you are now at Iris Hill towers over the driveway at the bottom of a Texas-sized hill. Their three acre homestead near Weatherford, Texas is at the top of the steep gravelled tree-lined driveway. There you'll find their home and also the home of nearly one thousand iris and one hundred or more rabbits–hence, the slogan on their business card "buds and buns."

Knowing that the unusually severe winter in the Dallas area this year caused extremely late bloom for this convention, I was not surprised that bloom in this garden was sparse, as the majority of the guest irises were tall bearded whose time to bloom had not yet come. Having visited this garden during the 2013 convention and seen extensive TB bloom, it saddened me to think of how much hard work goes into hosting a convention garden, only to have Mother Nature strike a crushing blow.

Carter's iris garden, south of their house, is neatly laid out with 14 rows of raised beds, each divided into 24 inch square grids and watered by an irrigation system. Plantings of other annuals and perennials line the drive; the center of the circular drive features a large tree surrounded by blue tubs filled with Louisianas, which, of course, were not in bloom this year.

Walking the rows in Gordon's neatly laid out garden, I found several IBs and SDBs and one lone MDB **'Aaah'** (G. Sutton 2009) in bloom. Particularly striking was **'Bahama Blues'** (M. Sutton 2010), a heavily ruffled IB with varied rose-colored standard and falls, framed with gold wire rims. Another IB catching my eye was **'Presto Change-O'** (Paul Black 2009), a white plicata washed dark blue, darker on the standards with gray tipped blue beards.

LeRoy Meininger's IB seedling **5-32**, a blue self, was blooming profusely as was **'Blue Splash'** (P. Black 2009), with icy white standards, icy blue-white falls and almost perfect branching. The aptly named **'Chilly Willy'** (T. Aitken 2012), a white self, was outstanding, appearing to be an oasis of white amid a sea of green foliage.

Several of the guest SDBs were still in full bloom. I noticed in the convention book that **'Bunny Slope'** (D. Miller 2013) was in this garden and was anxious to see if it was in bloom, primarily because I thought that an iris with the word 'bunny' in it was certainly appropriate since the Carver's other love is raising rabbits. *(Photo below by Betty Stephens.)* Sure enough, it was there with its white standards and falls enhanced by blue markings and yellow beards basking happily in the sun. **'Pinkster'** (M. Sutton 2008) was putting on quite a show. This pink SDB has a distinctive white center on the falls with blue tipped white beards.

Other SDBs strutting their stuff included **'Stuart Little'** (G. Sutton, 2012), perhaps named for the literary figure (a mouse) of the same name, is petite and lightly ruffled yellow with bright orange beards. The bright yellow standards and falls of the lightly ruffled and laced **'Ray Jones'** (D. Spoon 2011) stood out like beacon and seemed to call out "come look at me." **'Bad Boys'** (L. Miller 2011) were being good boys that day with striking darkish purple standards dotted yellow on the midribs, white creamed falls banded purple and a very busy blue beard—a real standout! Also a star in this garden was **'Jennyanydots'** (P. Black 2011), a light buff and red-purple plicata with orange tipped white beards. What a strange name for an iris, I thought. Then I learned that Jennyanydots was a fictional cat—Paul Black and an iris named for a cat, hmmmm.

The Carver's other love is rabbits, which they raise for show and sale. A large barn at the back of their property houses Flemish Giants that can weigh as much as twenty pounds as well as California Satins, known for their fur. Generally there are 80 adult rabbits and many babies. I laughed and told Gordon that there is some similarity between raising tall bearded irises and rabbits—both reproduce. TBs at least three increases per year; rabbits produce three litters per year.

Thanks Gordon and Happy for your Texas style hospitality. ⚜

Clark Garden

BY JUDY ECKHOFF, KANSAS AND LOWELL BAUMUNK, COLORADO

Photo by Judy Eckhoff

Clark Gardens, located on a rugged Texas hillside, began as a private garden 1972. Much of the work and the dreams were sparked by Billie Clark's imagination. In 1999 Max & Billie Clark established the Max & Billie Clark Foundation by donating 143 acres, including the gardens, to this non-profit organization. The thirty-five acre gardens are now an educational and scientific facility that opened to the public on April 22, 2000. This year's AIS convention was the fourth for which Clark Gardens has been an official guest garden.

As the Master Planting, the garden has every guest iris that was sent for both the 2013 and 2014 convention. In addition, there are numerous beds with other irises, some left from earlier conventions. Even though, as in the other convention gardens, we were too early for much of the bloom season, the quantity of iris plants meant that with some energy an iris enthusiast could see a great many blooms. As in all the 2014 convention gardens, the irises were well-grown with large healthy clumps

Last year the weather was so cold and windy it was almost impossible to enjoy the beautiful area. This year the weather was much better. Medians were doing well as were a few early tall bearded. Several groups did the judges' training (In-Garden Judging of Median Iris). It was interesting to see the difference a year can make in the growth of an iris.

The garden is hidden down a country road. As you round the curve entering the garden, you cannot help but notice the very long row of iris stretching all along the drive. What a breath taking view this would be when those iris are all in bloom. Perhaps someday we'll be able to see that sight!

Those taking part in the judges training sessions were able to judge all the classes of medians. This doesn't happen very often so we took advantage of it. The SDBs we looked at were **'Little Nugget'** (Andrew Sutton 2011). A delightful diamond dusted yellow, white falls had lavender and yellow veining. Another intriguing little SDB was **'Look Inside'** (Paul Black 2012). It had yellow standards with red brown stitching along the edge and some dotting. Falls are white with a yellow edge and burgundy dots. Also blooming were other Sutton creations, **'Pinkster'** (M. Sutton 2008), pale pink with a white center on the falls and a blue beard and **'Perfectionist'**, (G. Sutton 2010) a completely white and nicely ruffled iris.

The favorite MTBs were **'Carla Beth'** (Betty Wyss, deceased, by Kelly Norris 2012). Standards are a warm pink, falls a medium red/violet blending to pink and very distant purple based foliage. **'Scone'** (George Sutton 2010), is just a little different, a very pretty orange.

A few of the Intermediates that were nice to look at were **'Calligrapher'** (Marky Smith 2007), an iris that is difficult to describe but you know it when you see it ***(Photo below by Bob Pries.)*** and **'Bottled Sunshine'** (Nichols 1995, a sunny yellow with white falls and more yellow around a gold beard. It was blooming in most gardens. The last IB to mention is **'Chilly Willy'** (Aitken 2012), another cool white self.

The guest iris that most captured Lowell's imagination was **'Leave The Light On'**, (Probst 2013 IB). Since he's working on hybridizing small luminatas, he was drawn to the proportionally small blooms on well-branched, multi-budded stalks. The flowers, in the luminata pattern, feature a solid bright magenta wash over a bright yellow ground.

Seedlings Judy found interesting and will be watching for in the future are **M-9** and **M-11** by Michael Chesebro. Both are intermediates in shades of greyed purple with blue beards. Another intermediate was **M-20** by the same hybridizer, only in yellow and purple. The last seedling Judy took notice of was an SDB by Kendal Rohr, **R1-1A-2003** which is a darker purple blended reddish violet with a gold beard.

After a picnic-style lunch under a big tent, we roamed the rest of the beautiful grounds. The gardens are mostly in an informal style and contain many fine and interesting specimen plants as well as Texas native plants. The shady paths were perfect for a peaceful after-lunch stroll.

Many thanks to Clark Gardens and to the Iris Society of Dallas for having us. ⚜

Tall Bearded Iris in Gardens
2014 Spring Convention in Texas

'Muleshoe Money'
(Burseen 2011)
President's Cup Runner Up

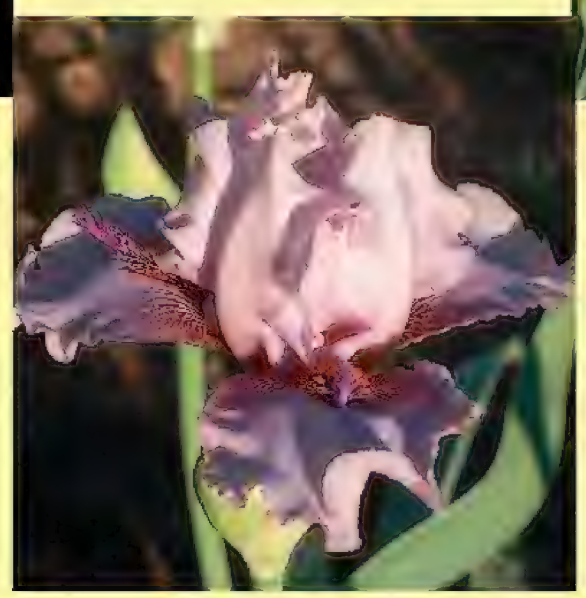
'Orangelo'
(M. Sutton 2009)

'Queen's Ransom'
(R.VanLiere 2012)

'Beyond Borders'
(Tasco 2012)

'Camera Ready'
(Tasco 2009)

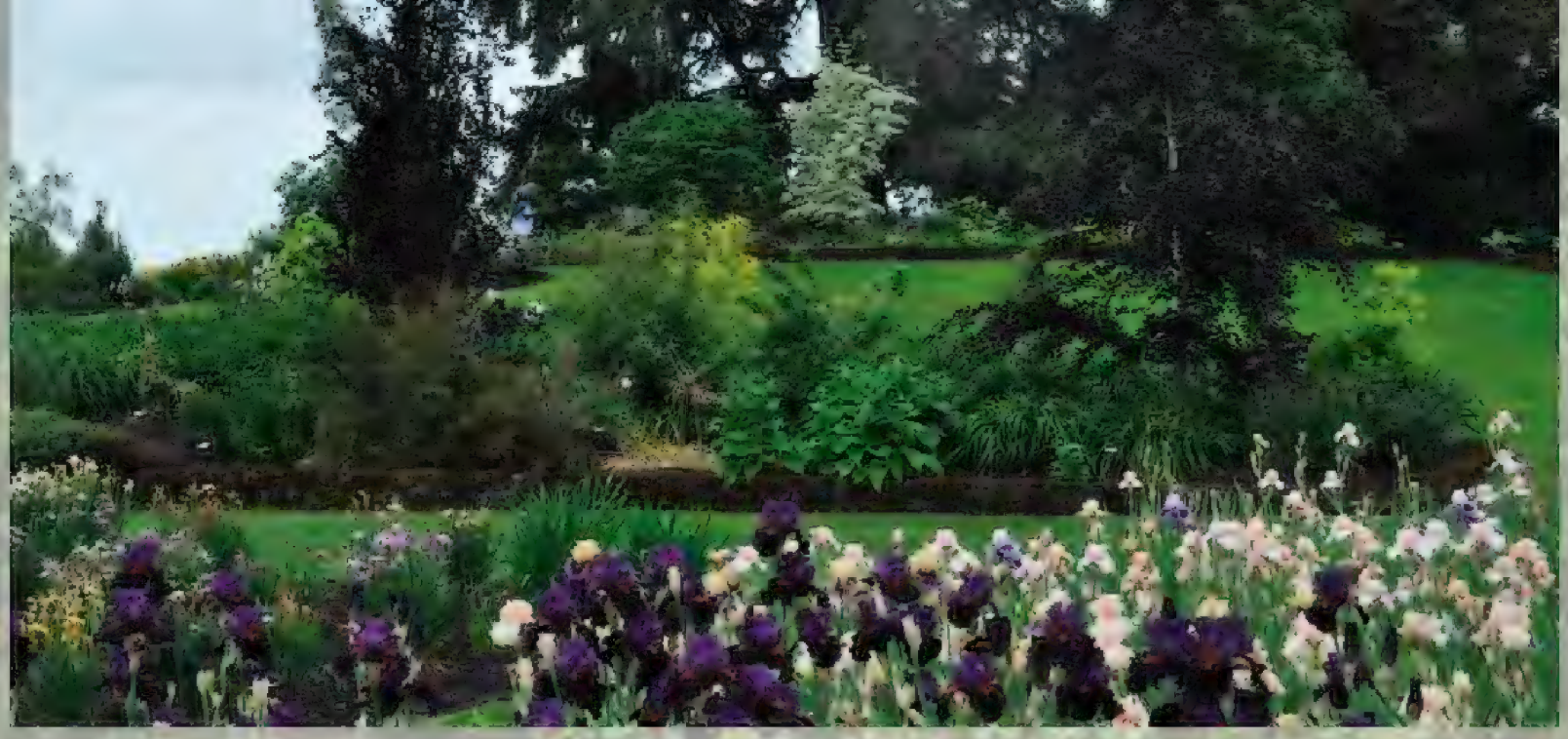
'Fiery Springs'
(H. Nichols 2013)



'Awesome Alex'
(Burseen 2004)

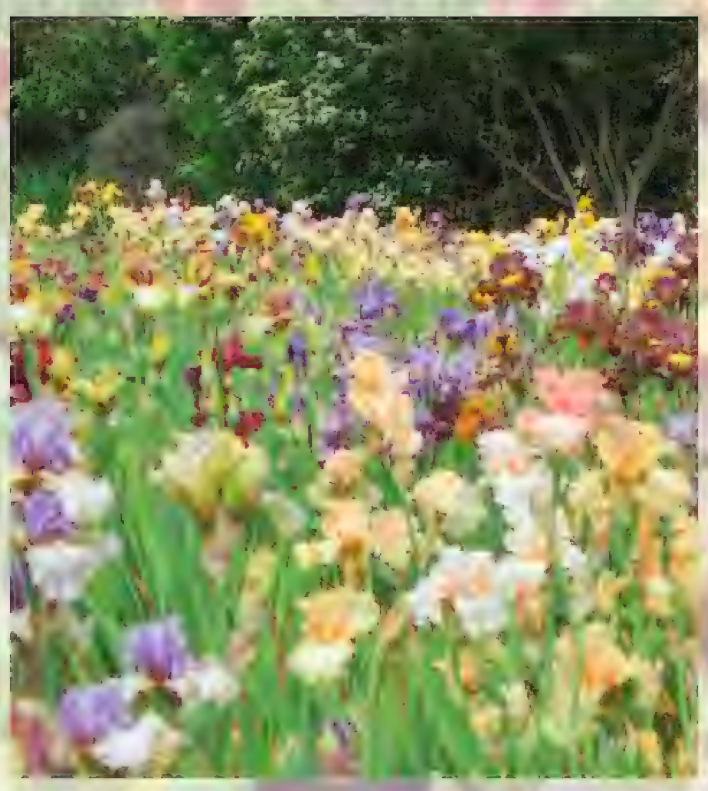
'Put Another Nickel In'
(H. Bushnell 2011)

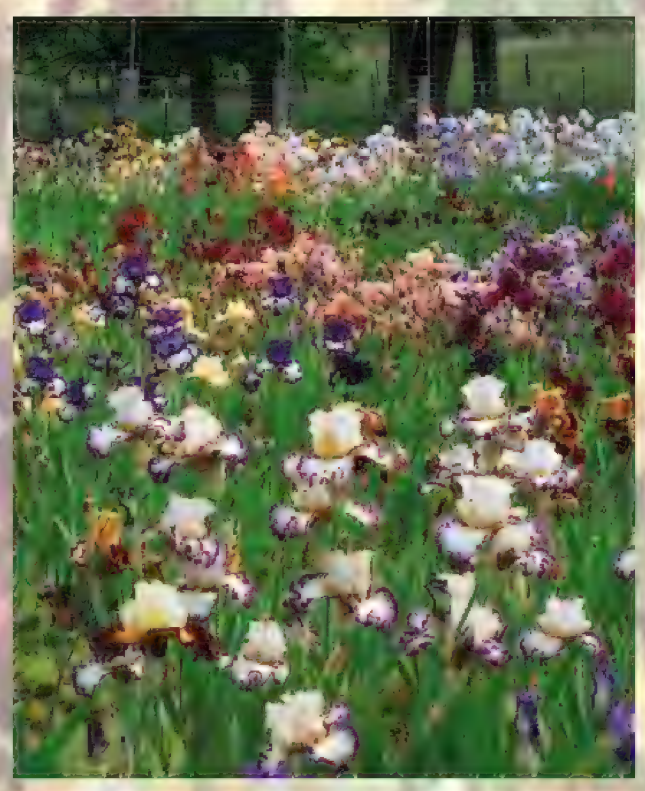
Photos by Jim Morris, Riley Probst,
Sue Ann Barnes and Nancy Price

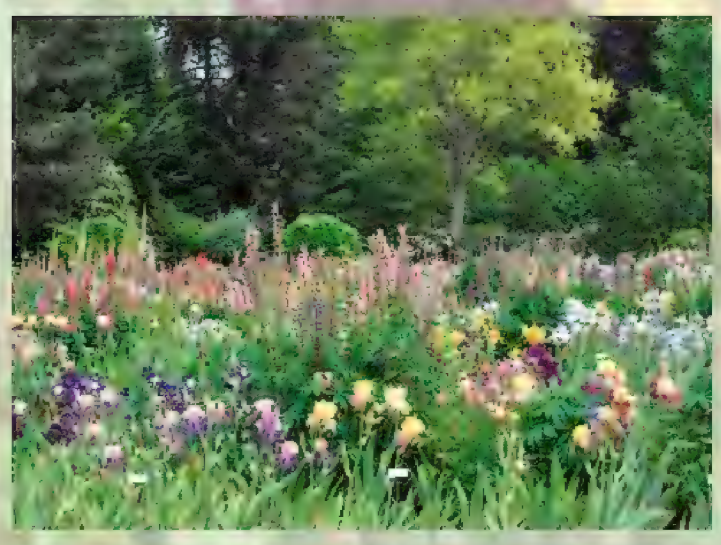


Tall Bearded Iris Society Meeting

The Tall Bearded Iris Society held their meeting and garden tour in Salem, Oregon in May. These gardens are on the tour schedule or available as an optional tour during the 2015 Spring Convention. Here are just a few photos of some of the gardens on the tour. All the details will be in the next issue of *Tall Talk* and on the convention website (see page 26).







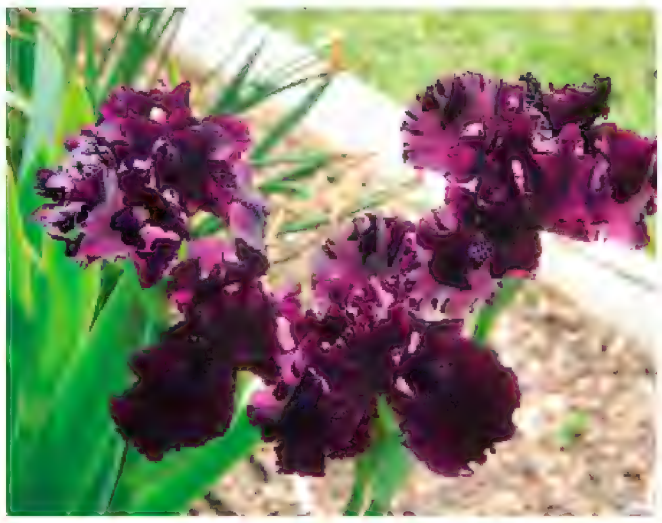
Clockwise from top:

Mid-America garden
SchreinerTT1683-A
'Berryfulfilling' (Schreiner 2013)
Keith Keppel's garden (2)
Schreiners' garden
Chad Harris' garden

Photos by:
Ramona Howard
Judy Nunn
Bryce Willimanson

'Bright Blue Eyes' (M. Sutton 2009, SDB)
Photo by Jim Morris

'Line Drive' (M. Sutton 2007, IB)
Photo by Betty Stephens



'Midnight Sharp' (G. Sutton 2010, IB)
Photo by Jim Morris

2014 Favorite Irises

TOTAL NUMBER OF VOTES RECEIVED

BY BONNIE NICHOLS

'Bahama Blues' (M. Sutton 2010, IB)	63
'Midnight Sharp' (G. Sutton 2010, IB)	60
'Bottled Sunshine' (H. Nichols 1995, IB)	54
'Leave The Light On' (R. Probst 2013, IB)	49
'Beyond Borders' (Tasco 2012, TB)	47
'Bright Blue Eyes' (M. Sutton 2009, SDB)	40
'Rare Breed' (Tasco 2011, AB)	32
'Edge Of The World' (M. Sutton 2011,TB-RE)	31
'Red Hot Chili' (M. Sutton 2008, IB-RE)	31
'Spice Trader' (J. Painter 2010, TB)	31
'Touch of Tuscany' (M. Sutton 2008, IB)	31
'New Vision' (Tasco 2012, AB)	30
'Italics' (M. Smith 2012, IB)	28
'Riveting' (Black 2009, SDB)	28
"Stuart Littlc' (G. Sutton 2011,SDB)	27
'Chilly Willy' (Aitken 2012, IB)	26
'Line Drive' (M. Sutton 2007, IB)	25

'Red Hot Chili' (M. Sutton 2008, IB-RE)
Photo by Jim Morris

"Leave the Light On' (R. Probst 2013, IB)
Photo by Lowell Baumunk

'Touch of Tuscany' (M. Sutton 2008, IB)
Photo by Iris City Gardens

'Chilly Willy' (Aitken 2012, IB)
Photo by Aitken

Winston Patrick McGregor Park

BY NANCY PRICE, OREGON

Photo by Betty Stephens

The air was crisp and calm as we exited the buses at the Winston Patrick McGregor Park garden in Cleburne, Texas. It was a cool 57 degrees. The wind was nearly at a standstill, birds were singing, there were blossoms to be viewed. All was right with the world.

The Winston Patrick McGregor Park was not on the tour in 2013, and it was well received by this year's conventioneers. It was founded in 2009 when Frank Scott bequeathed his home and grounds to the city of Cleburne. The ten-acre botanical-style park is used for environmental education and enjoyment of horticultural activities. It was named after Scott's beloved bulldogs. With light jackets and smiles on, we immediately scurried about looking at all the iris that were in bloom.

As soon as I stepped off the bus, there was an iris plant with three stalks and six blossoms to view. I was anxious to see the iris and analyze it as I do all iris on tour. It was a charming near amoena with light beige falls and orange beards. It was not very distinctive, but seemed to be a good grower in this garden. Then I looked at the name of the iris in order to write notes in my book. To my surprise, the hybridizer was myself. The iris is named **'Mean Sharon'** (Price 2012, TB).

After I, and several others, chuckled over my iris, it was time to move into the garden. I noticed the excellent, clean foliage of almost every single planting. I began to wish for more bloom, but recorded what I saw and asked my husband, Dave Silverberg, to take pictures for me.

The next blossom in my notes is a seedling **08-6-10** sent by Anton Pyburn from Sweetwater, Texas. It was a lovely, and well-grown iris and one of my choices for our new category of Best Seedling seen at the National Convention.

This garden was no different than the others in that there were few tall bearded iris flowers to see. **'Put Another Nickel In'** (H. Bushnell 2011, TB) has a pinkish mauve self with orange beards. Next was **'Foolish Dreamer'** (K. Keppel 2011, TB), a handsome creamy yellow plicata with violet overlay of the standards with violet style arms. The falls are yellow with a wide plum edge. **'Beyond Borders'** (Tasco 2012, TB) has a near white self with a violet blue rim on the falls. A few were showing color in the buds and might have opened in another two or three days given the warm afternoon temperatures. **'Reckless Abandon'** (K. Keppel 2010) and **'Beauty Within'** (Joe Ghio 2012) were two of those I would liked to have seen that were showing color.

'Mandarin Delight' (O.D. Niswonger 2010, IB), is a coffee pink self. **'Courtney Rucker'** (M. Lockatell, 2012 RE, IB) had two spent blooms and one open bloom that appeared to be heavily damaged by the wind. What color remained was a unique blue/gray/brown blend.

Somebody mentioned there were arils and arilbred iris at the end of the sidewalk, so I headed in that direction. There were three beautiful specimens hybridized by Rick Tasco. One was **'Bhutan'** (Tasco 2010, AB (OGB)) with wisteria blue standards lightly veined with yellow midribs and falls champagne heavily veined burgundy, and small, elongated signal near velvet black. Another was **'Rare Breed'** (Tasco 2011, AB (OGB)) had tan standards, red orange falls, and a bright red signal. The third was **'New Vision'** (Tasco 2012, AB (OGB)) with violet standards, raspberry rose blending to pinkish tan falls, and a large dark burgundy black signal.

A large planting of Louisiana iris with no stalks showing yet included **'Bayou Festival'** (H. Nichols 2008) and **'Lafayette Moon'** (H. Nichols 2008). Also in this planting was **HP-2**, a Spec-X seedling (J. Copeland).

A few medians were calling us on the other side of the bed, so away we went. **'Pinkster'** (M. Sutton 2008, SDB) with pink standards and pale pink falls was putting on a good show. **'Bright Blue Eyes'** (M. Sutton, 2009, SDB) was also in bloom. **'Eyedazzler'** a luminata (B. Filardi 2009, IB) was close by. I wanted a picture of **'Starfield'** (Tasco 2012, IB), a newer IB with standards pale yellow ground with brick red dotting and falls with white ground, dark burgundy dotting and a yellow area around the beards.

There were some MTBs, one in bloom. Lynda Miller sent **'Dollie and Me'** (Miller 2011, MTB) with butter yellow standards and light violet falls. It has 'Ben A Factor' in its background from both the pod and pollen parents.

The whistles blew too soon and it was time to head to the next garden. There was no rain, no cold, and no wind in this garden. It was most enjoyable. ⚜

Who was Dr. G. I. Rodionenko?

BY KATHLEEN SONNTAG, CALIFORNIA

When I heard about the death of Dr. Rodionenko last April just after his one hundred and first birthday, I resolved to learn about him. New to the iris world and ever curious, I did some research. The articles I reviewed describe him as a person, as a scientist and as founder of the Iridarium in the Leningrad Botanical Garden which is 300 years old this year. In 1968 Dr. Rodionenko was elected an honorary member of the British Iris Society due to his work with iris and awarded The Foster Memorial Plaque. His most well known book of the ten* he published is *The Genus Iris L.* translated by Ann Blanco White and published by the British Iris Society in 1987. In 1999 Dr. Rodionenko was the first recipient of the Warburton Medal, which is presented by the AIS to international irisarians who have made outstanding contributions to the world iris community.

His biographical information is readily available. The article I like best was published in the April 2000 AIS Bulletin. He propagated fruit trees in the garden he created at the age of ten at his home in Ardebil, a town in northwest Iran. After graduating from agricultural college, he was encouraged by his professors to continue his studies. Dr. Rodionenko went to Leningrad in 1939 to work at the botanical garden and write his Ph. D. thesis. In the desert of central Kazakhstan where he was sent to find ornamental plants that could survive in the harsh climate, he encountered the native Iris lactea for the first time, the only flower growing there. That flower inspired his interest in iris. Dr. Rodionenko began to study the winter hardiness of irises. This was the basis of his thesis and much of his fifty years of study at the Iridarium. W. R. Dykes was his main authority. In 1995, after visiting the United States, he became increasingly interested in the preservation of irises. In 2002 he submitted five articles and worked on projects supported by the AIS Foundation

I was interested in learning about the Iridarium that was established in 1963. On exhibit are examples of wild forms of beardless iris to the cultured plant showing the evolution of iris: *I. aphylla, I. germanica, I. pallida, I. variegata* as well an old and modern selection of bearded irises. The plantings provide iris bloom from early spring through late autumn. The Irises of Russia website has detailed information about the plantings and photos of the Iridarium.

An article by James Rasmussen in the January 1990 AIS *Bulletin* describes Dr. Rodionenko as the author got acquainted with him in Florence, Italy during the International Iris Exhibition. Mr. Rasmussen wrote about a man who was interested in everything. He had studied the history of Florence before arriving there. I enjoyed the story of his wandering away from his group to collect wild gladioli in a field. He also became known for his love of strawberries and honey. Included in the biographical data Dr. Rodionenko sent upon receiving the Warburton Medal he described how, at the age of twelve, he caught a swarm of wild bees and created a small apiary. He harvested honey—sugar was not available to his family. ⚜

If you are inspired to read more about Dr. Rodionenko and his work, here are some websites and sources:

AIS *Bulletin*, January 1990, *Meeting a Friend in Florence* by James Rasmussen

AIS *Bulletin*, April 2000, Dr. G.I. Rodionenko, Warburton Medal, 1999

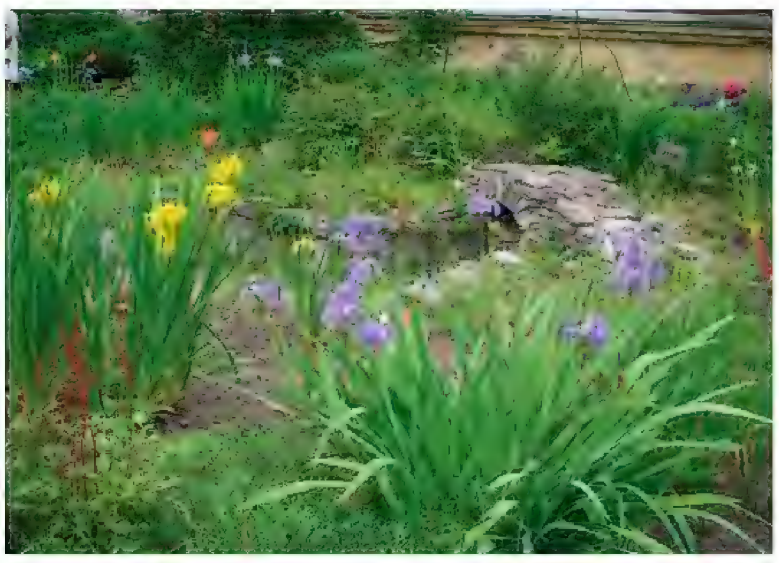
SIGNA 2013, articles by Nina Alexeeva and Yuri Pirogov,

http://flower-iris.ru/en/

July/August 2013 issue of *IRISES*' tribute to Dr. Rodionenko's one-hundredth birthday

www.aisfoundation.org/Projects/

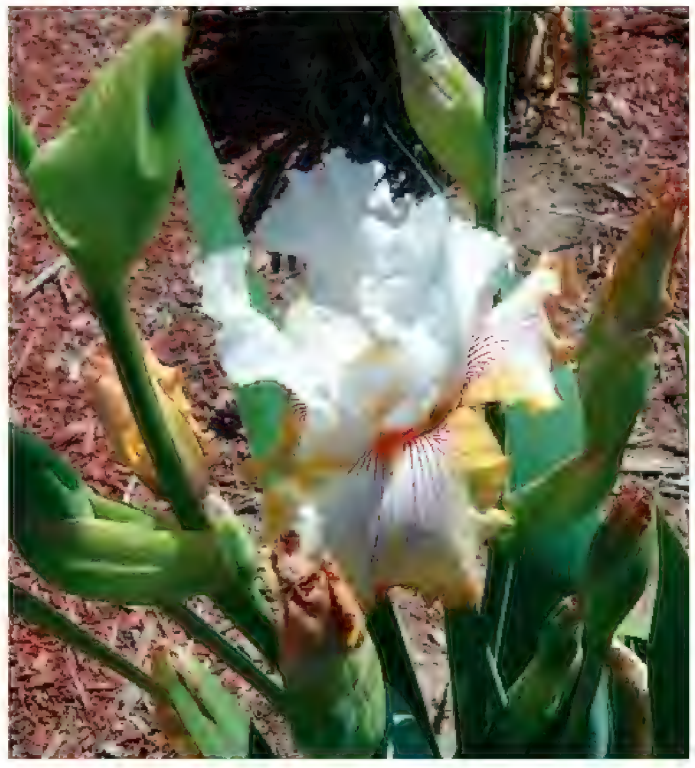
Photos of the Iridarium from the Russian iris website.
Photo of Dr Rodionenko from SIGNA (100th birthday celebration)



Tom Burseen's Garden

BY LYNDA LOVE, COLORADO

Photo by Betty Stephens



Tom Burseen's garden is an iris lover's dream. There are irises everywhere, from the front curb to the front door of Tom's home and everywhere around the home. Then there are more irises in fields behind the house. Irises everywhere and only a few blooming on the day we were there. What potential bloom might be enjoyed in just a few days!

Fortunately, there were some guest irises blooming. After consulting the detailed map we were given, my mom and I went in search of iris blossoms. The easily accessible guest irises were planted along long walks lined with cinder blocks. Some of the cinder blocks had baby irises growing in them. There was a stiff breeze to contend with, and more than one iris stalk was lying on its side. We did find a very tall seedling that was protected by the wind.

Among the median guest irises was a cute peach colored MTB called **'Florence French'** (Mona French 2009) ***Photo above left by Lynda Love.*** **'Bottled Sunshine'** (H. Nichols 1995) a yellow IB, was putting on quite a show. Seen elsewhere in the convention, purple IB **'Midnight Sharp'** (G. Sutton 2010) was also blooming here. Two by Tom Johnson looked great in the Burseen garden: **'Tic Tac Toe'** (Tom Johnson 2010, MTB), pale pink with an orange beard and **'Parable'** (Tom Johnson 2011), a purple arilbred.

Tall Bearded irises were limited to the earliest blooming varieties. Many were blooming down low in the foliage (cold damage?). Worth mentioning are **'Royal Pageantry'** (J.G. Crump 2010) with white standards with violet falls, **'Dorothy Devenport'** (H. Nichols 2003) a lovely lacy pale orange), and **'Midnight Toccata'** (Kerr 2010) with violet standards with black-violet falls and an orange beard. Down in the foliage was **'Day on the Bay'** (Joe Ghio 2012), a beautiful creamy pastel blend. The rest of the stalks on this plant were taller—it would have been nice to see it later. **'Struck Twice'** (Larry Lauer 2009), a peach pastel blend with an orange beard, also looked nice.

One of Tom Burseen's own creations, an early blooming TB found in multiple areas in his garden, caught our eye: **'Sure Enuff'** (T. Burseen 2011). ***Photo above center by Lynda Love.*** It is white and the falls have a butterscotch rim, purple striping, and an orange beard. Complex description, yes, and also pretty in the garden!

Sure enuff, we enjoyed Tom Burseen's garden! ⚜

The Seandell Garden

BY JEAN MORRIS, MISSOURI

Photo by Betty Stephens

Located on an average subdivision lot in Plano, Texas, the Seandell garden of Dell Perry was quite extraordinary and had something for everyone. In bloom were SDBs, IBs, MTBs, BBs, ABs and TBs. These included new varieties, space agers, rebloomers and historics. Along one wall of the house were Louisianas in tasteful plastic storage tubs promising future bloom to extend the season. Everything was healthy and well grown, and each area was well used.

Having taken notes on seventy-eight varieties, I told myself restraint must be used in my write up because of space limitations.

What a pleasure it was to walk down memory lane and see **'Bedtime Story'** (Ritchie 1982, IB) in orchid tones, and **'Scout's Honor'** (Gatty 1979, IB), a beautifully ruffled brown with golden beards. Also, the historic **'Blue Rhythm'** (Whiting 1945, TB), a lovely mid-blue with cream beards was thrilling to see.

A collection of rebloomers, many by Monty Byers, brought back fond memories of the outstanding improvements made to rebloomers and space agers by this one man in such a short time. Even though Monty lived in California, his irises faithfully rebloomed in St. Louis and still are doing so.

Back to the present, the following SDBs were impressive.

'Nosferatu' (P. Black 2010) Red with deeper fall spot and bright yellow lines by gold beards. It had four buds per stalk, too.

'Golden Folly' (M. Sutton 2012) Yellow gold with orange beards which extend to lavender horns.

'Pinkster' (M. Sutton 2008) Pink with blue beards. This was growing well in several places.

'Coyote Moon' (Tasco 2012) Ruffled yellow with cream beards.

'Celebrate' (P. Black 2007) A different plicata marked purple on a lavender ground with narrow purple beards.

'Sir Benjamin Dover' (N. Price 2008) Green-gold with brown fall lines and violet beards.

IBs were at peak with the following performing well.

'Leave The Light On' (R. Probst 2013) Stunning red violet and yellow luminata.

'Touch Of Tuscany' (M. Sutton 2009) Gold with wine fall rays; hafts are yellow with plicata dots and beards are orange. This grew well in several gardens.

'Red Hot Chili' (M. Sutton 2008) Plicata marked red on lemon yellow.

'Pop Culture' (P. Black 2012) Plicata marked wine on brightest yellow.

'Italics' (M. Smith 2012) Orange ground plicata dotted wine with burnt orange beards.

'Chilly Willy' (Aitken 2012) Sky blue with large blue beards.

'Carved Pumpkin' (G. Sutton 2012) Cantaloupe with burnt orange beards.

'Bahama Blues' (M. Sutton 2010) Vigorous dusty pink with royal blue beards. Extremely ruffled, extremely open standards.

'Coral Chimes' (G. Crump 2007) Pink with coral beards.

'Hot Sauce' (G. Sutton 2007) Dark wine on bright yellow plicata with old gold beards.

'It's Amazing' (P. Black 2012) Pink with blue beards growing a bit short here.

A few MTBs were open as follows.

'Coral Sunrise' (L. Miller 2012) Cantaloupe with coral beads.

Seedling 2110B by L. Miller in raspberry with coral beards.

'She's A Doll' (L. Miller 2010) Pink over orchid with orange beards.

Two BBs were blooming nicely.

'Sheer Excitement' (Tasco 2011) Red violet and cream luminata with white styles and yellow below white beards.

Seedling LED-05-A by M. Valenzuela is a ruffled amethyst luminata.

Arilbreds, all by Rick Tasco, formed big clumps by the gazebo.

'Sand Dancer' (Tasco 2010, AB(OGB)) 36" tall with wine veins on a pink underlay, over gold veined wine. Light gold styles.

'New Vision' (Tasco 2012, AB (OGB)) 34" tall in rosy lavender over red veins on a pink underlay. Red styles, bronze beads and a big black signal which gets one's attention.

'Bhutan' (Tasco 2010, AB (OGB)) 32" tall in light lavender over gold veined red with light gold styles.

'Rare Breed' (Tasco 2011, AB (OGB)) 32" tall in light gold with red lines on falls. Gold styles and unusual double-wide gold beards.

'Dragon King' (Tasco 2011, TB)
Photo by Jim Morris

TBs were beginning to open, encouraged by the sunshine of the last two days. Especially attractive were the following.

'Snow Lion' (M. Smith 2008) Cream with light orange hafts.

'Dragon King' (Tasco 2011) Beautiful shade of mauve with wine fall lines and bright orange beards.

'County Of Kent' (L. Baumunk 2005) Amethyst on white plicata with nice ruffles.

'Charismatic' (G. Sutton 2011) Rich cream with light orange beards.

'Seek The Glow' (T. Burseen 2011) Nicely budded yellow orange self.

'Edge Of Glory' (J. Painter 2012) Zippy amethyst amoena with gold beards.

'Wired' (M. Sutton 2011) Lacy amoena with wisteria falls washed orchid. Orange beards. Good branching, bud count and very showy.

'Soda Fountain Shuffle' (M. Lockatell 2009 RE) Well budded white with lime hafts and slight rose fall blaze. Reblooms.

'Sheila Van Hook' (J. Van Hook 2009) Purple over black with deep purple beards. Good branching and bud count.

'Raspberry Swirl' (M. Sutton 2009) Amber with "singed tan" edges over black raspberry edged light rose with orange beards. Sweetly scented.

'Florence Hill' (T. Burseen 2009) Peach over mauve blazed orchid. Big orange beards end in peach horns.

Dell was the perfect hostess, answering questions and enjoying conversations with old and new friends while exuding that "ball of energy" personality she is famous for. She wore several hats at this convention, serving not only as tour garden owner, but also as registrar and program presenter for the Median Iris Society, to name a few. Thank you, Dell, for creating an outstanding garden for our enjoyment. ⚜

Above: Iris admirers checking their lists.
Photo by Betty Stephens

Below: Arilbred iris bed. Photo by Dell Perry..

Photo by Judy Keisling

Woody Keas' Garden

BY CAROL MOORE, MISSOURI

Heading south from the Brown garden near the Oklahoma border, our bus traveled a few short miles to the garden of Woody Keas located near Sherman Texas. We soon arrived at a place out in the country that was surrounded by cedar trees. As we walked down the drive we were amazed to see a large field containing numerous well-made raised beds.

We were further amazed to learn that the irises looked as if they had been growing in this garden for two to three years, when in fact they had been planted here for less than six months. Originally, these irises were planted in Janice Thompson's garden, a 2013 guest garden also in Sherman. However, not too long after that convention, she got a call to move to Michigan to assist a family member. At that point, Woody stepped up to the plate and offered to guest the irises in his garden. Thus, all of the irises were dug up and transported to their new home on Woody's twelve acres.

While the plants looked happy and healthy in their new environment, bloom was sparse partly because they had been moved but also because the bloom season was uncharacteristically late this year. Looking good were IBs **'Kermit'** (A. Ensminger 1990), chartreuse with blue blaze under its beard, and **'Logo'** (K. Keppel 1986), pinkish bluff standards, salmon bluff falls. Buds were plentiful on **'Red Hot Chili'** (M. Sutton 2008) and **'Touch of Tuscany'** (M. Sutton 2009), but alas, we were there too early to see bloom.

The petals on a lone MTB, **'Scone'** (G. Sutton, 2010) were just beginning to unfurl but all that could be seen was the orange coloring that within a day or two would define this iris.

Niswonger's SDB **'Jade Stone'** (1994), an olive green self with darker spot around light blue beards was blooming its heart out. What a clump! ***Photo top right by Betty Stephens.*** Other SDBs that caught my eye included **'Bright Blue Eyes'** (M. Sutton 2009, SDB), with creamy pale yellow standards and white falls enhanced with a green thumbprint and **'Bunny Slope'** (D. Miller 2013), white with light blue edges on the standards and the same light blue markings on the falls. The lightly ruffled **'Peach Frappucino'** (G. Sutton 2010) with peach standards and peach falls rimmed apricot and carrot orange beards was quite a standout. ***Photo bottom right by Judy Keisling.*** An early bloomer, **'Little Nugget'** (A. Sutton 2011) had finished blooming for the year; however the numerous spent blooms indicated that this plant was had been extremely floriferous. **'Bibbidi Bobbidi Blue'** (G. Sutton 2011) was trying its best to open, but wasn't quite there.

Walking through the garden, we saw that the raised beds were laid out in interesting designs - some curvy, some circular, and others straight. Fun decorations including a giant wire bird cage, a cheese board, and large planters added to our experience in this garden.

Many thanks to Woody for doing so much at virtually the last minute and for his hospitality.

Martha McDowell Garden

BY JEAN MORRIS, MISSOURI

Photo of Martha by Betty Stephens

I enjoyed visiting the Martha McDowell Garden near Anna, Texas because I like seeing older varieties well-grown. Also, SDBs are one of my favorite iris types and they were blooming in profusion here. Martha rode around on her golf cart, warmly greeting everyone. The ground was covered with grape hyacinths in many places, and the large lilac bush in full bloom added to the ambiance. One of the first SDBs I noticed was **'Starry Eyed'** (Gatty, 1975) in white with a blue fall spot. ***(Photo on the left by Jim Morris)***The falls roll to points so the blooms resemble stars. It was also great to see **'Brassie'** (Warburton 1958) a bright yellow gold self, looking so fine. ***(Photo on the right by Bety Stephens).***

Other SDBs of note were as follows.

'Jungle Gem' (T. Aitken 2000) Gold over red brown with gold beards.
'Cache Of Gold' (G. Sutton 2004) Ruffled golden yellow with white beards.
'Nassau Blue' (G. Sutton 2008) Medium blue with lavender hafts.
'Pilot' (M. Smith 2004) Small, ruffled orange self.
'Gadzooks' (M. Sutton 2013) Gold on yellow ground plicata with bronze beards.
'Look Inside' (P. Black 2012) Dark red on gold plicata over red on cream ground at the haft area. The flower has showy styles if you look inside.
'Bright Blue Eyes' (M. Sutton 2009) Cream with a bright yellow fall spot and dark blue beards.

Several IBs were looking good including the following:

'Rare Edition' (Gatty 1980) This ruffled violet on white plicata is hard to beat and one that compares favorably with today's new introductions.
'Bahama Blues' (M. Sutton 2010) Ruffled dusty pink with deep blue beards. Many visitors admired this one.
'Carved Pumpkin' (G. Sutton 2012) Cantalope with burnt orange beards. This grew quite tall here and formed a large clump.
'Midnight Sharp' (G. Sutton 2010) A ruffled, purple black self that was definitely the best clump in the garden. The five stalks were standing up well in the wind and looked just beautiful.

I noted a couple of TBs as they were just beginning to bloom.

'Tennessee Woman' (S. Innerst 1990) Light blue over medium blue with yellow beards.
'Carnival Magic' (B. Williamson 1987) Gold over red on white plicata falls, with yellow beards.

We can see why Martha chose to return to her childhood home property for retirement. Thank you for sharing your lovely garden with us, Martha. ⚜

Nichols' Mesquite Iris Garden

RILEY PROBST AND SHIRLEY TRIO, CALIFORNIA

After leaving the hotel in the very early morning and arriving at our first garden of the day at about 7:15 AM, we waded through very heavy dew and were rewarded with a view of a large field of irises. We had arrived at the country garden of Hooker and Bonnie Nichols in Mesquite. This garden is an addition to the quarter-acre garden at their home in Dallas. The land slopes gently and there are very wide rows with plantings far enough apart to allow one to evaluate each iris and plant.

Hooker's iris mentors were his aunt and his grandmother. By the time he was a teenager, Hooker was an old hand at growing, selling and hybridizing irises. Bonnie's iris mentor was her mother, Dorothy. Hence the tall bearded iris named **'Dorothy Devenport'** (runner up for the 2014 President's Cup) introduced by Hooker in 2003 *(photo on left by Betty Stephens)*. Hooker and Bonnie met at an iris meeting and the rest, as they say, is happy history.

Mother Nature was still in bed for the winter. Few guest irises were in bloom in this garden. The ones that were blooming looked great. The average temperatures are lower out in the country so bloom here was a little behind the city gardens.

As soon as we left the bus, we were met by Hooker who wanted to show Riley how well the clump of **'Leave the Light On'** was doing. (R. Probst 2013, IB) The name comes from the appearance of a bright yellow light burning deep in the heart of this luminata. Bud count and branching were good.

As we walked up the gentle hill, one of the first irises we saw was Marky Smith's luminata, **'Delirium'** (M. Smith, 2001, IB). The plant was clean, healthy and growing well. We have observed that this iris grows well all over the country. The bright yellow standards call to everyone from across the garden. Delirium is an iris for all gardens.

While we were trudging up and down the rows we could not help but have **'Cause for Pause'** to admire Burseen's iris of that name. (Burseen 2007, TB) It is a wacky and beautiful flounced space-age plicata. The standards show a white ground with purple lines. The falls have the lined plicata edge on white. Due to an unstable gene the appendages may be spoons, horn or flounces. Unique are the tiny lines of purple that can be seen on the appendages, whatever they are. It was striking!

Another Burseen iris, growing well and in full bloom that continues to amaze us even though it was introduced more than a decade ago is **'Awesome Alex'** (Burseen 2004,TB) named for the very handsome Gordon and Happy Carver's grandson. The huge bushy long brick orange beard becomes amethyst purple as it lifts off the creamy fall and forms a large spear on the wide falls.

Who could miss the large clump of warm morning sunshine better known as **'Bottled Sunshine'** (H. Nichols 1995, IB). This iris always grows well. This is not the first time we have commented on the good growth, bud count and well-shaped stalk. It was introduced in 1995 and still wins awards including the President's Cup this year.

We were still taking pictures and looking for irises marked RE for rebloomers as the whistle blew for us to board the buses. Shirley did get the opportunity to take one last parting shot of the Texas Blue Bonnets in full bloom with an iris right in the middle. Unfortunately, the iris did not have a name tag.

A big thank you to Hooker and Bonnie for sharing their garden with us. ⚜

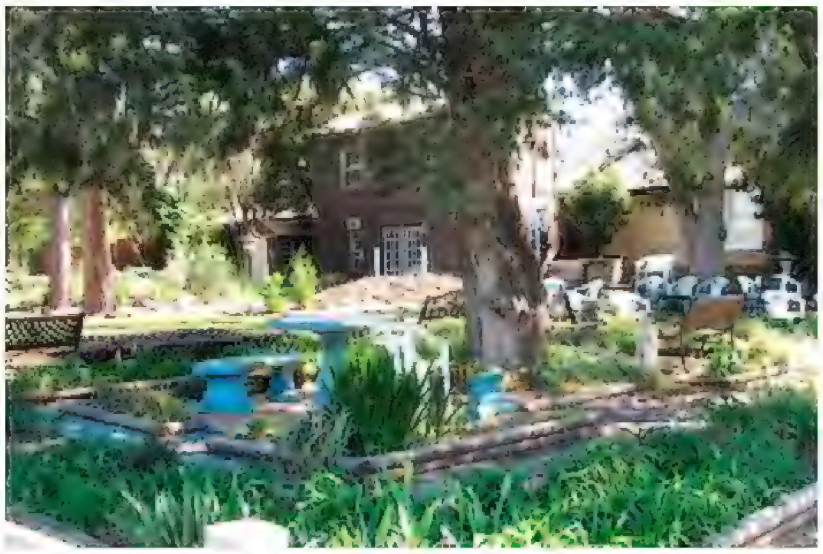
At the Clark garden

Clockwise:
Sue Ann Barnes conducts Judges' Training
Lunch break.
Wandering through the gardens.

Photos by Betty Stephens

Nichols' garden

Photos by Betty Stephens



Bearding the Iris

BY JOHN JONES, CALIFORNIA AND KEITH KEPPEL, OREGON

Hybridizers have bearded the iris on ever-increasing fronts through the years. (The verb "beard" means to confront boldly.) They have taken irises and added new colors, created increasingly complex patterns, and even doubled chromosomes making it possible to intercross species and to form entirely different classes like versilaevs and calsibs (in the beardless groups!).

Among the bearded irises, some of the most serious development has been on—the beards! A few decades ago, tangerine-bearded lavenders were unique; now we have red beards on blues, blacks, and almost any other color you can name. (But why are strong red-bearded yellows so elusive?) Mix or match, petals and beards. Who would have imagined blue-bearded pinks back when true pinks were new?

It's not just beard color that is changing. As if testosterone were included in the hybridizer's tool kit, beards can now be found that are wider, bushier, and longer, and that is without including beard extensions like horns, spoons, flounces, and now even pompoms and such. Not all beards are flagrant, of course; think of the more discreet bearded ladies. One thing is for sure: beards now come in a wide range of options.

That is why, about two decades ago, the Registrations Committee began asking hybridizers for more information about beards on the registration application form. Describing the beard can be challenging.

So, how do you best describe the beard?

The first question about beards on the AIS Application for Registration (Item 10. Color of Beards) merely asks the color of the beard. If the color is basically uniform, such as all tangerine orange, or all medium to dark yellow, that's as much information as is necessary.

Most often, though, beard color will change from the back (the throat) of the flower as it goes to the front (the end) of the beard. If this is the case, the next line on the form (By Section) is for that color change information. List the basic color for each section, or zone, of the beard. For instance, it might be: throat, tangerine-red; middle, orange; end, blue. Use this section if the hairs that form the beard are essentially the same color from base to tip. (Note that "tip" is used to refer to the top of the hairs, not the end of the beard.)

Beard color can vary in another dimension, also, and that is from the bottom (base) to the top (tip) of the individual hairs. Another line on the application form (By Hairs) is used to address that. If the hairs are basically a uniform color, no entry should be made; if the color is not uniform from base to tip, list the color of the top (the tip) and the base of the hair. It might be tip, yellow; base, violet; for instance. (Imagine bleached blonde hair with dark roots showing!) It is not unusual for the beard to have a "layered" look, where the tip color and the base color overlay each other. The yellow tips and violet base might then combine to give a tan brown mid-layer. Unless this blending is uniquely exceptional, it is not necessary to detail it.

Uniform Color

Two Toned

Tipped Lighter

If the end of the beard extends outward and lifts from the fall, Item 11 is the place to record beard appendages. This line is the place to describe both the type of appendage—horn, flounce, whatever—and its color.

Answers to these extra beard questions will aid in the accuracy of cultivar identification and also make written descriptions more meaningful; but, it is important that we use uniform terminology. The biggest problem so far has been confusion with the descriptive terms "end" (the most outward section of the beard) and "tip" (the uppermost part of beard hairs). It does not seem to be difficult to remember what "standards" and "falls" mean. Can it be that much more difficult to remember "end of the beard" and "tips of the hairs?"

Please beard (confront boldly) the problem and eliminate confusion! ⚜

Above, Spoon; Below, Horn

'Spice Trader' (J. Painter 2010, TB) Marigold beards. One of the favorites seen on the 2014 convention garden tours. Photo by Plotner

Russian Iris Society Guest Tall Bearded Iris Request

A Moscow tall bearded iris competition is to be conducted by the Russian Iris Society (RIS) together with the M.V. Lomonosov Moscow State University. A maximum of six cultivars (two rhizomes each) per year are requested (together with phytosanitary certificate) from participating hybridizers. Cultivars must be within the last three years including the current year. Guest plants are requested between April until the end of August. Entries are eligible for awards one time only and are judged in the third year after planting.

Hybridizers are to send their TB plants to:

Valentina Dvortsova
Moscow State University Botanical Garden
Moscow, 119992, Russia

Attention Hybridizers and Iris Registrants

At the Spring 2014 Board of Directors meeting the AIS Board of Directors set a two-tier structure for registration/reserve fees.

Effective 1 Dec 2014 the fee to register, reserve, or transfer an iris name will be as follows:

For the period from 1 Dec of the registration year through 30 June of the registration year, the fee will be $15 for North America and $10 if registered through an Associate Registrar in a non-North American country.

For the period from 1 July of the registration year through 30 Nov of the registration year the fee will be $20 for North America and $15 if registered through an Associate Registrar in a non-North American country.

	Registration date	Fee Amount
North America Registration	1 December - 30 June	$15
	1 July -30 November	$20
Registration through foreign Associate Registrar (plus local area registration fees)	1 December - 30 June	$10
	1 July -30 November	$15

All payments must be post marked or made by Paypal payment (non-North American registrants only) by the end date of the respective period to qualify for the associated fee.

By previous action the Board of Directors directed that:

- The registration year runs from 1 December through 30 November of the following calendar year.
- Iris registrations must be **received by the AIS Registrar prior to 1 November** of each registration year. Any registrations received after November 1 will be registered in the following registration year.

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Species Iris Group of North America (SIGNA):

Ken Walkup, 22 Cayuga St., Trumansburg, NY 14886-9184; < krw25@cornell.edu>

Rodney Barton, 3 Wolters Street, Hickory Creek, TX 75065; <rbartontx@yahoo.com>

Historic Iris Preservation Society (HIPS):

Gary White, 701 Old Cheney Rd., Lincoln, NE 68512; <in2iris@yahoo.com>

Judy Eckhoff, 7911 S. Yoder Road, Haven, KS 67543; 620-931-5114; <judy67543@gmail.com>

Society for Louisiana Irises:

Jim Leonard, 1103 Kimball Dr, Lafayette, LA 70506; <jrleonard@sprintmail.com >

Robert Treadway, Carlisle, AR < robertt01@earthlink.net>

Section Membership Rates (contact information above):

If not noted, contact Section for overseas postage rates.

	Single Annual	Single Triennial	Dual Annual	Dual Triennial
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Dwarf Iris Society	$8.00 *(youth* 6.00*)*	21.00 *(youth* 12.00*)*	10.00	24.00
Electronic Membership/one year by e-mail address (Newsletter only in digital file) $6.00				
Historic Iris Preservation Society	10.00	24.00	12.00	30.00
Median Iris Society	$12.00 (*overseas* 19.50) *(youth* 4.00*)*	30.00 (*overseas* 52.50) *(youth* 10.00*)*	13.50 (*overseas* 21.00)	34.50 (*overseas* 57.00)
Reblooming Iris Society	$10.00	25.00	12.00	30.00
Society for Japanese Iris	$10.00	25.00	12.00	31.00
Society for Louisiana Irises	$13.00 (*overseas* 30.00)	32.00 (*overseas* 82.00)	16.00 (*overseas* 33.00)	44.00 (*overseas* 90.00)
Society for PCNs *Paper copies of Almanac*	$15.00 (*overseas* 18.00)	40.00 (*overseas* 48.00)	n/a	n/a
Electronic copies of Almanac only	$7.00	$19.00		
Society for Siberian Iris	10.00	25.00	12.00	30.00
Species Iris Group (SIGNA)*	$12.00 (*foreign* 15.00)	32.00 (*foreign* 40.00)	12.00 (*foreign* 15.00)	32.00 (*foreign* 40.00)
Lifetime membership $300.00				
Spuria Iris Society	$12.00 (*overseas* 15.00)	30.00 (*overseas* 40.00)		
E-membership	*6.00*	*15.00*		
Tall Bearded Iris Society	$10.00 (*overseas* 25.00)	27.00	15.00	41.00
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AIS STOREFRONT Sale Items & Publications

All prices include shipping and handling

The World of Irises Highly recommended! 32 pages of full color. Edited by Warburton and Hamblen. 34 contributors and authors including international authorities. Published in 1978 and most authoritative book on all phases of irises. Scientific and popular. 6" x 9" hard bound cloth cover, 494 pages. $19.00, Canada $25.00, International $35.00.

Handbook for Judges and Show Officials:
Seventh Edition, 2007
Insert (new pages): USA $16.00,Canada $22.00, International $32.00.
Insert w/cover: USA $19.00, Canada $25.00, International $35.00.

Basic Iris Culture Booklet. Great information for new iris growers. Ideal for clubs and shows. New and in color.
Single copy: USA $7.00, Canada $8.00, International $10.00.
Packet of 25: USA $82.00, Canada $105.00, International $119.00

***AIS Bulletins:* Back Issues**
Current year and last year: USA $8.00, Canada $11.00, International $15.00.
Older issues (not all available): USA $5.00, Canada $8.00, International $12.00.
Pk of 25: USA $18.00, Canada $34.00, International $45.00.
Pk of 50: USA $27.00, Canada $51.00, International $65.00.

Check Lists: Ten-year compilation for registrations
1939, 1949, 1959, 1969, & 1979 Reprint. Soft Cover.
USA $9.00, Canada $15.00, International $25.00.
1989 & 1999 (Hard Cover):
USA $9.00, Canada $15.00, International $25.00.
2009: 941 pages
Soft Cover Book: USA $25.00, Canada $48.00, International $66.00.
Hard Cover Book: USA $34.00, Canada $57.00, International $75.00.

Registrations and Introductions:
Year 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013: USA $13.00 each, Canada $14.00 each, International $16.00 each.
Year 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009: USA $4.00 each, Canada $5.00 each, International $8.00 each.

50th Anniversary Bronze Medal: Antiqued bronze. Suitable for pendants, show prizes and special awards.
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Package of 10: USA 18.00, Canada $21.00, International $26.00.

RVP Pins (outgoing RVPs only) $35
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2014 AIS Iris Calendars:
USA $4.00, Canada $6.00, International $8.00.
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2015 AIS Iris Calendars:
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Iris Post Cards (16 per pack)
3 packs USA $4.00; Canada $6.00, International $8.00.
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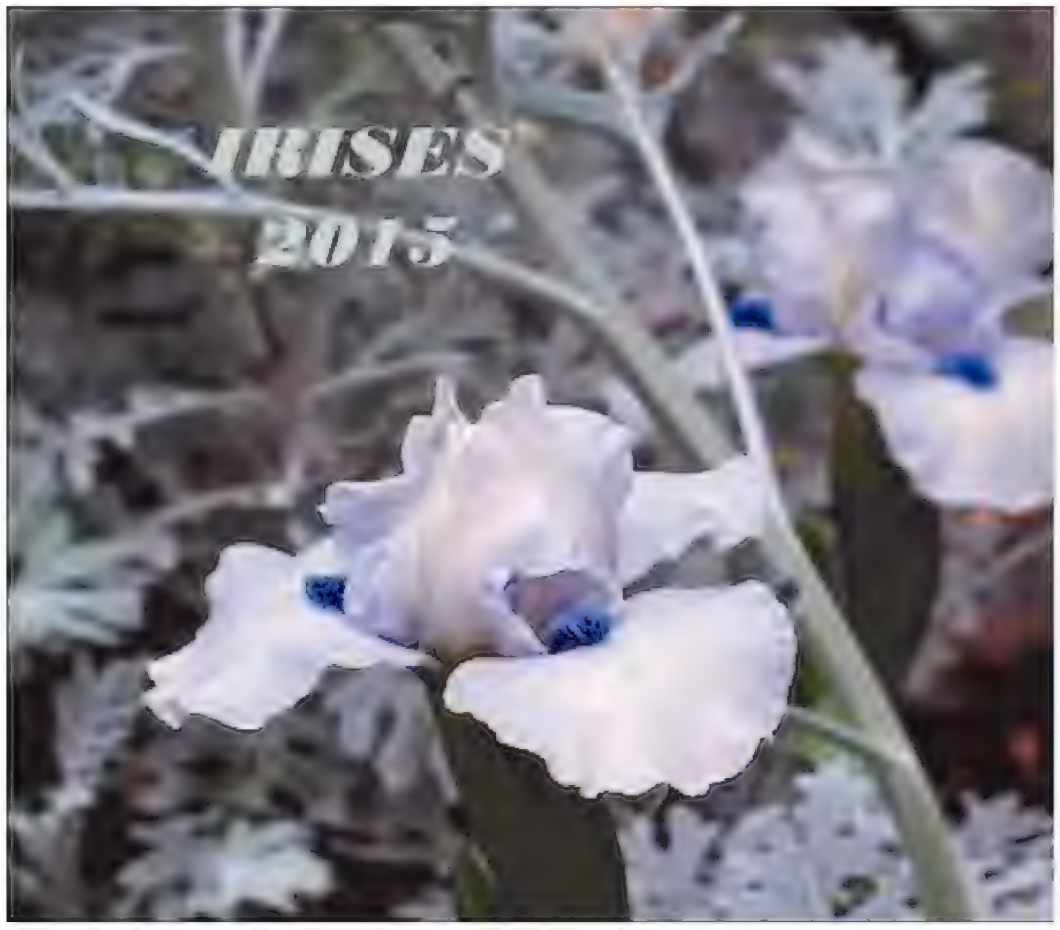

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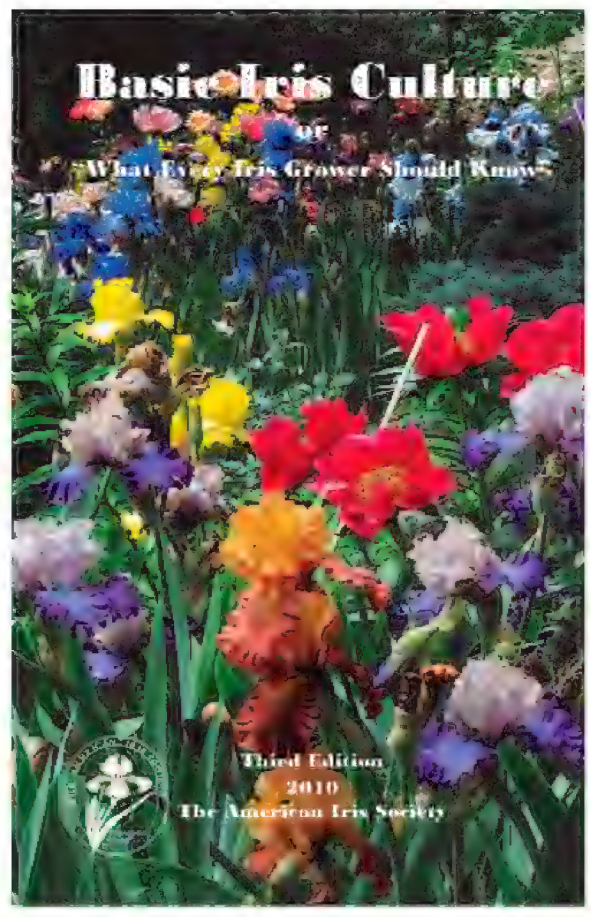

Publications now available through the AIS Storefront:

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USA $30.00; Canada $33.00, International $37.00.

Marie Caillet (1915-2010)
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For additional item descriptions and price updates, check the AIS Website: www.irises.org/Member Services/Storefront

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The AIS can now accept VISA and Mastercard (sorry, no other charge cards) for Storefront orders (minimum order: $10.00). When charging your order, please include card type and number, expiration date, name on card, and phone number. The Storefront ships via media mail where possible. Priority, overnight and UPS shipment charges paid by the customer. Make checks or money orders payable to The American Iris Society.

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To place an ad, please contact the advertising editor. The advertising editor has a list of specifications for digital submissions. We accept only MS Word, .pdf, .jpg or .indd files. Photos must be sent separately from word or InDesign documents. All .jpg files must be high resolution (minimum 1600x1000). Payment is due with ad copy. The deadlines for ad submissions are as follows: July 15 (September/October issue); November 15 (January/February issue), February 15 (April/May issue), May 15 (July/August issue).

Send digital ad copy to the editor <aiseditor@irises.org>. Send payment (payable to AIS) to Ron Killingsworth, 10329 Caddo Lake Rd., Mooringsport, LA 71060; 318-996-9969; <retmiagt@gmail.com>

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Found in the back of each Bulletin. Placement is roughly alphabetical. Rate is for 4 issues.
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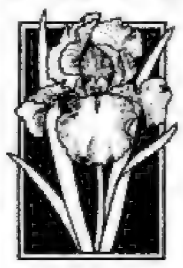

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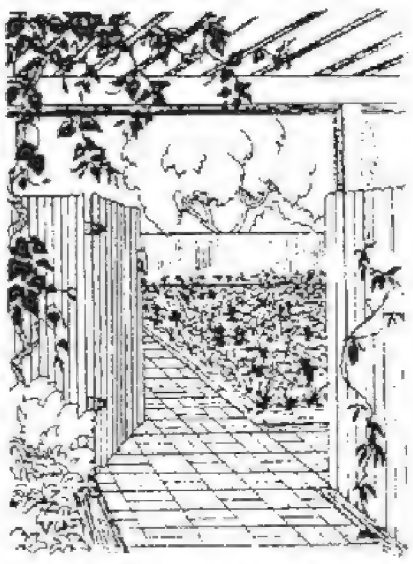

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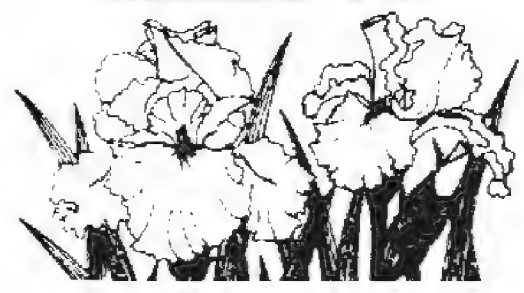

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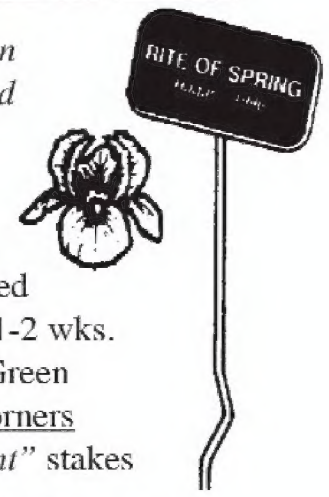

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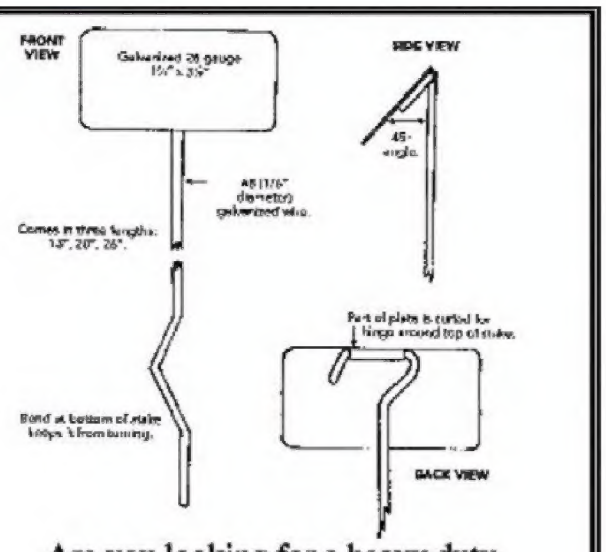

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MTBs that brightened the tour gardens in Texas

'Coral Sunrise' (Miller 2014)
Photo by Jim Morris

'Dolly and Me' (Miller 2014)
Photo by Nancy Price

'Maui Mango' (Aitken 2005)
Photo by Betty Stephens

AIS CONVENTIONS

"IRIS IN WONDERLAND 2015"
2015: MAY 18 - 23, PORTLAND, OREGON

Chair: John Ludi
35071 SE Hwy 211, Boring, OR 97009
503-668-9230 <kludi@juno.com>

Convention Headquarters:
Red Lion Hotel on the River (Jantzen Beach, Oregon)
909 N. Hayden Island Drive, Portland, OR 97217
503-283-4466; www.Redlion.com/jantzenbeach

"EAST WE GO IN 2016"
2016: MAY 23-28, NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

Chair: Paul W. Gossett <pwgossett@juno.com>
Co-Chair: George Boyce <glenara@aol.com>

2017: MAY 22-26 DES MOINES, IOWA

Chair: Kelly Norris <kellydn@frontiernet.net>
Co-Chair: Gary White <in2iris@yahoo.com

FALL BOARD MEETINGS

2014: NOV 7 - 8, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Chair: Paul W. Gossett
1502 S. Boulder Ave #12B, Tulsa, OK 74119-4034
918-853-6204 <pwgossett@juno.com>
Headquarters: Hilton Salt Lake City Airport Hotel
5151 Wiley Post Way, Salt Lake City, UT 84116,
801-539-1515

2015: NOV 6 - 7, OMAHA, NEBRASKA

Chair: Linda Wilkie
402-493-3808 <lrwilkie@gmail.com>

2016: NOV 4-5, SEDONA, ARIZONA

Chair: Michelle Snyder
225 Sky Line Drive, Sedona, AZ 86336
928-282-5867 <aissecretary@irises.org>
Headquarters: Hampton Inn Sedona Hotel
1800 W SR Hwy 89A, Sedona, AZ 86336
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'Delirium' (M. Smith 2001, IB)
Photo by Riley Probst